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RETURN OF THE DINOSAURS

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JURASSIC PARK

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BEST FOR JOBS

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- 2-SECTION APPOINTMENTS

Tory ideas remodelled by Labour

Rebates plan for top-up pensions

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government will today announce a shake-up of pension provision, including a radical plan to give national insurance rebates to millions of people if they join flexible new personal schemes.

The centrepiece of the proposals will be chance for everyone to hold a second "stakeholder" pension to top up their basic state pension.

The National Insurance rebates, which may be worth about £10 a week, will go to those who join cheap-to-administer schemes which will be organised so that they can easily be transferred from one employer to another.

John Denham, the Social Security Minister, will today launch a comprehensive review of provision for the over 60s in a tacit admission that the state alone can no longer cover provision for the elderly.

The basic state pension will remain static in line with inflation, but the Government will not be able to match its proposals of the 1990s that it would keep increases in line with earnings. Labour has also dropped its plan to provide a minimum guaranteed pension, higher than the basic state pension, for poorer people.

The key new proposal to be announced today is the plan for a second pension to complement the basic state pension — an idea that bears similarities to the Conservatives' Basic Pension Plus idea for reforming the system, which was derided by Tony Blair before the election.

Under Labour's plans, ev-

eryone who does not have their own occupational scheme will be encouraged to take out a personal pension. That could be run by a variety of different groups including mutual societies, co-operative societies, employers or groups of employers.

SERPS, the state earnings-related pension scheme, will continue, at least in the short term. But those who opt out of the scheme will be given national insurance rebates which can be used to build up private provision.

Under Peter Lilley's plans for the Conservatives, people in their early twenties and below would have been given £9 a week rebates from their National Insurance contributions to put into their new pension funds. Although had intended to phase out SERPS, the Tories would have topped up each person's fund by a per cent of earnings.

The start up cost of that scheme was estimated at £100 million a year, rising to £7 billion by 2040. But Mr Lilley said that it would save £40 billion in the longer term.

Social security sources said yesterday that the aim of the Government's plan was to provide value-for-money, flexible and secure pension provision. One way of achieving that might be to encourage group pensions that could be adopted by a number of employers within an industry, such as car manufacturing or construction. The aim would be both to secure cheaper deals and to enable employees to transfer their scheme to another company.

At present many people are believed to be deterred from taking out private provision because schemes are too expensive — charges can eat up a quarter of the value of the pension or more. But the Government is expected to limit the fees that firms will be able to charge.

The review will also look at the role of the state in approving second pensions, given the missing scandal of the 1980s in which millions of people were advised to join unsuitable schemes and for which most are still awaiting compensation. Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has already warned the industry to "shape up", and one option being floated is to exclude from the new stakeholder scheme any pension firms that fail to settle claims by next year.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary is also keen to examine ways of ensuring that all of the 700,000 pensioners eligible for income support take up their entitlement.

Many old people are put off by the stigma of going to benefit offices to claim their extra cash. Ms Harman has suggested that these pensioners should be identified and an alternative method of payment found.

The review team to be announced by Mr Denham is expected to include a number of outsiders as well as government representatives. Social security sources said that the plans would also go out to wide consultation.



Jonathan Aitken heading for home surrounded by photographers and reporters during his brief foray yesterday back into the public eye

Aitken comeback ends with hasty retreat

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AFTER a period of resting in America, Jonathan Aitken made his comeback on the public stage yesterday. He had promised an intriguing solo performance on College Green. What his 100-strong audience got was not even Whitehall fare.

Mr Aitken, who is a bit down on his luck at the moment, had done his own pre-publicity. Earlier this week the fax machine in *The Times* newsroom whirred and out came a press release from Mr Aitken himself.

Writing in the third person, he said:

"Jonathan Aitken is aware, from the large numbers of photographers stationed outside his home, that some media organisations are currently anxious to take pictures of him. To make life easier for all concerned, Mr Aitken is letting it be known that he will be walking across College Green, Westminster, at 5pm on Wednesday,

July 16. At this brief photo opportunity Mr Aitken will say nothing beyond the terms of the statement issued today."

Clearly Mr Aitken had learnt something from his scrapping with the press. He had learnt that if you do something really odd — and making an announcement that you are going to hang around College Green saying nothing is definitely odd — you will have the full attention of the press.

At 5pm yesterday there were at least 100 photographers, television cameras and reporters milling around on the green waiting for the show to begin.

The problem started when he didn't arrive, Michael Jackson style, from the skies. As Mr Aitken was spotted approaching the green 50 yards away, a photographer (with an 8ft ladder) made his move towards him and a stampede followed.

If Mr Aitken or any of those bruised by yesterday's skirmish refer to it,

when trying to impress their grandchildren, as the Battle of College Green, they will be exaggerating a little. Like many engagements before it, this battle was over quickly and did not actually take place at the place after which it was named. Mr Aitken never actually made it to College Green. Surrounded within seconds by the pack, with lenses telescoping up his nostrils, Mr Aitken got himself trapped between a transit van and a wall.

He squeezed clear but progress towards the patch of grass was slow. Mr Aitken looked rather taken aback by the turnout but not in the happy way that a pop star might be. Perhaps not for the first time in the past few weeks, Mr Aitken may have been wondering if he had done quite the right thing.

It was unfortunate that he got swamped by photographers but one was tempted to ask: what had he expected? So we asked. But Mr Aitken, as he had promised, was doing a dumb show.

Eventually, after refusing to answer any questions and inching forward through the pack, he declared, with a touch of the prima donna: "I don't think we are going to get to College Green. If this is the way you are going to behave, I am going back." And he did. His house is just around a couple of corners from the green. For the next ten minutes he shuffled towards home.

On Little College Street Michael Brunson of ITN fell backwards over the kerb. "I'm sorry Michael, it's not my fault," Mr Aitken said.

Down Great Peter Street: "What do you think of the accusations in the Commons today that you committed perjury, Mr Aitken?"

Finally, into the home strait of Lord North Street. "Why did you do this, Mr Aitken?" And at last he answered: "I arranged it to be helpful to you," he said.

Shares hit a record high

Shares rose to a record high yesterday as unemployment fell to its lowest level for seven years.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares rose within a whisker of rising above 5,000 for the first time, peaking at 4,991.50 before slipping in late trading to close at 4,964.2, a rise of 64.9 points on the day.

The downward trend in unemployment continued in June as the number of people out of work fell for the sixteenth month to reach the lowest level since April 1990.

Record levels, page 25.

Stock market, page 31

Riddle of Versace's contact with gay killer 'years ago'

FROM TOM RHODES IN SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI

GIANNI VERSACE, the Italian fashion designer, may have met his alleged killer years ago, it was disclosed last night.

Although the FBI and police denied any previous contact between Versace, 50, and Andrew Cunanan, 27, the serial killer believed to be responsible for his murder, it was reported that the two may have had a backstage encounter at the San Francisco Opera where the designer said: "I remember you."

Maureen Orth, who has been researching an article on Mr Cunanan for the September issue of *Vanity Fair*, said she had spoken to friends who recalled the meeting on the West Coast some years ago. She did not think the two had been lovers.

The latest disclosure came as federal agents and state police launched a nationwide hunt for Mr Cunanan, a gay prostitute who is HIV positive.

Mr Cunanan was said by

the FBI to have been sighted in the neighbouring community of West Palm Beach only two

weeks before. A red Chevrolet pick-up truck, believed to have been stolen by Mr Cunanan from the scene of a New Jersey murder in May, was discovered close to the Versace palace.

Experts believe that Mr Cunanan had become a "spree killer", who may have wanted to wreak revenge after he contracted the AIDS virus. "He could be set off by any emotional upsurge," said Robert Ressler, a former FBI behavioural scientist. "Health problems, such as a discovery that the individual found out he had AIDS, could send him into a frenzy."

Authorities were checking airports, railway stations and ports for any sign of the missing man whom one officer described as a "chameleon of disguise". Thousands of posters, bearing two pictures of the alleged killer, have been circulated and police have issued an alert to Florida's gay community.

Mr Cunanan was said by

the FBI to have been sighted in the neighbouring community of West Palm Beach only two

Brown to reopen debate on EMU

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BREMNER

GORDON BROWN will launch a national debate on European economic and monetary union today in a move that will revive the fiercest political controversy of the past five years.

The Chancellor believes that Britain cannot afford not to weigh up the benefits and pitfalls of membership — even though it is unlikely to join in the first wave in 1999. And to get the debate going, he is to issue a Treasury guide for business on the practical implications of joining or staying out, and to set up a group to give business and public sector organisations advice about EMU.

He is also to announce publication of a 22-page report by Lord Currie, professor of economics at the London Business School, to promote better informed and more reasoned discussion.

Eurosceptics will claim that the move is a sign that ministers are moving towards

the single currency, but Mr Brown will tell the Royal Institute of International Affairs that the Government is concerned to have a serious debate "because whether Britain is in or out, it will have profound implications for British business and the British economy". There should be informed discussion "about where Britain's national interests lie".

The Chancellor's aides deny that his speech will mark any change in the Government's stance on the single currency. Like John Major and Kenneth Clarke before him, Mr Brown believes that Britain cannot afford to stay out of the EU negotiations and he accepts that formidable obstacles remain to British membership in 1999.

Mr Brown, who has been one of the Cabinet's leading

Continued on page 2, col 7

New EU, page II

Leading article, page 19

Esquire

GREAT SUMMER ISSUE

THE SHARPER READ FOR MEN



PLUS: JET SET: WHY PHOTOS OF THE SEXIEST FRIEND

AND OTHER STUFF

BY GUY ROBERTSON

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN MCGOWAN

ARTWORK BY DAVID HARRIS

DESIGN BY CLAUDIO SARTORI

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN MCGOWAN

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DESIGN BY CLAUDIO SARTORI

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN MCGOWAN

ARTWORK BY DAVID HARRIS

Gritty Frank rides a one-way ticket to Darwinian dead-end

Alongside chips with mayonnaise, an unexpected pleasure of Belgium as a tourist destination is Antwerp Zoo. Situated near the station in a drizzly region of Flanders, this boasts one of the world's finest collections of Central African fauna. At its centre is a small herd of okapi.

The okapi is growing rare. With the markings of a faded zebra, the body of a stunted giraffe and the long tongue of an anteater, the beast is perfectly adapted to lick termites off high branches in the Congo rainforest. Sadly it is not

equipped for much else. Its coat no longer camouflages outside the sun-dappled forest floor, and hunted almost to extinction by pygmies, the okapi is — frankly — or a one-way ticket to nowhere.

Except Antwerp. Here history's last okapi huddle in the Belgian mist, an expression of infinite pathos betraying some half-sensed animal intuition that they are at a Darwinian dead-end.

They are okapi and they are not ashamed. They could and would not be anything else. But they know that being an

okapi is no longer where it's at, and that soon there may be no okapi at all. Railway trains shunt and whistle in the distance, mayonnaise-flecked school parties giggle and goggle through the wire, and the okapi of Antwerp peer into the drizzle, remember a happier epoch when there were trees and sunshine and termites, and brace themselves for extinction.

Watching Frank Dobson at the Commons yesterday, I was carried mentally to Antwerp Zoo. The Secretary of State for Health is a socialist and he is

not ashamed. He cannot and would not be anything else. But he knows that being a socialist is not where it's at in Tony Blair's new Labour Cabinet, and that soon there may be no socialists at all.

Hunted almost to extinction

by the tabloid newspapers, his ideological markings no longer any camouflage, even in Camden, he knows his career.

is on a one-way ticket to nowhere.

Tories giggle and journalists goggle and Mr Dobson shakes his beard and rises at the dispatch box, his gritty gaze betraying some half-sensed animal intuition that he and his kind are at a Darwinian dead-end.

He remembers a happier epoch when there was

Clause 4 and the GLC, and the red flag flew over Camden Town Hall ... And brace himself for extinction. But not quite yet.

Dobson knows the knives are out for him but he is

damned if he is going to give

the Cabinet butchers the excuse to sack him. Yesterday he

had come to the Commons to

explain his plans to unpick the

"two-tier" system by which GP

fundholders' secure advantages

for their patients. Mr Dobson had not, however, come to abolish GP fundholding itself. But of

course "old" Labour was

against GP fundholding alto-

gether. He could tell from the

cheers and jeers behind him

that many Labour backbenches

still hold that view, and

believe he shares it.

You could sense from Dob-

son's body language that he is

anything but an enthusiast for

fundholding. He described

Tory NHS reforms as having

been based "largely on the

experience of a heroin addict and

fraudster". Backbenchers

begged him not to stop here,

but to abolish fundholding

completely. But he dared not

encourage them. They were off-message — and Peter Mandelson wields a mean blowpipe. Mr Dobson stuck doggedly to his brief. While there were termites left, even in this barren new Labour terrain, he would tick them. And when the pygmies come for him, as he knows they will, he will go with dignity into extinction.

□ A collection of Matthew Parris's Parliamentary Sketches, *I Couldn't Possibly Comment*, is published by Robson Books.

Lab tests prove BSE can pass to human tissue

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BSE can be transmitted to humans beings. British scientists have found. The research shows that infectious proteins, or prions, from contaminated beef can, in laboratory tests, transmit to human tissue to trigger brain infections. The findings may also have implications for lamb infected with scrapie.

The researchers have found that the proteins involved with scrapie can also infect human proteins. James Hope, who led the research at the Institute for Animal Health in Newbury, Berkshire, said yesterday: "We have shown that change in a particular human protein can be induced by the bovine infectious agent."

However, he said the findings should be treated cautiously. "To extrapolate this to say that bovine spongiform encephalopathy has been, or is being, transmitted to humans discounts a lot of other factors that are involved in cross-species transmission," he said.

The scientists, whose work has been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, is also found that scrapie can be transmitted to humans to trigger a change in proteins. However, scrapie can be traced back 200 years, yet there is no evidence that people eating lamb have been

affected by scrapie. The scientists found that scrapie and BSE were equally good at infecting human proteins. "So you might actually infer that since the sheep and the bovine material convert the human ones at similar efficiency, BSE is not a risk factor for the disease. That would be the positive message," said Dr Hope, who is funded by the government's Biological and Biotechnological Sciences Research Council.

A more pessimistic conclusion is that scrapie-infected lamb is a threat to humans and should be treated in a similar way to beef. "It really depends on whether you wear rose-tinted or doom-laden glasses," Dr Hope said. He pointed out that outside the laboratory a multitude of additional factors — such as the dose, strain, and route of infection — would affect transmission.

Beef infected with BSE is thought to have triggered a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which strikes people at a much younger age than the normal version, causing symptoms of dementia leading to death. The Department of Health has recorded 19 confirmed and probable cases of "new variant" CJD. The patients are thought to have become infected in the

late 1980s, before strict controls came in to stop BSE-infected beef entering the human food chain.

Because of the disease's long incubation period, experts do not know if this is just the start of an epidemic that may kill thousands of people. Whether there is a serious epidemic will depend largely on how easily BSE can jump the species barrier and infect humans.

Brain diseases such as BSE, scrapie and CJD are thought to be caused by alterations to the molecular structure of proteins called prions. Normally harmless prions become defective, and cause other prions with which they come into contact to alter in the same way, thus setting up a chain reaction of infection.

Dr Hope and his team showed that prion proteins from both BSE and scrapie-infected animal brains were able to convert human prion proteins into the dangerous form. But the efficiency of this reaction was much lower than the conversion of human prion protein by the defective prion associated with "normal" CJD.

Dr Hope said: "We have shown that there is a molecular barrier between cows and humans, but it's not an absolute barrier. It's just a question of efficiency."



Bernadette Martin: "She was such a special girl"

Let her be the last victim, says Ulster father

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE father of a Roman Catholic girl shot dead by a loyalist gunman issued an impassioned plea yesterday to republicans not to avenge her. Laurence Martin wept as he voiced the hope that Bernadette, 18, would be the last victim of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

Speaking at the family home in Craigavon, Co Armagh, he said: "We do not want any repercussions or people claiming reprisals. If her death is the last death in this country, then maybe it is worth something and we can live in peace."

The RUC said yesterday that it was working on the premise that the killing in the early hours of Monday morning was sectarian. Miss Martin was shot four times in the head at close range as she lay asleep at the house of her Protestant boyfriend in the staunchly loyalist village of Aghalee, Co Antrim.

Rodney McCaffrey, the personnel manager at Avondale Foods, said people were in a "trance-like state". He added: "She was a very beautiful young girl, a very bubbly, popular young girl, very outgoing, a great lover of life."

The victim's father said that he could not understand why anyone would murder his daughter. Mr Martin said: "She was such a special girl; we loved her so very much, it is hard to believe she really is gone. Whoever did that, I have no feelings for them. I can

forgive them, but God might forgive them."

Mr Martin's wife, Margaret, was so devastated by the killing that she had not moved from her daughter's coffin since it arrived at the family home late on Monday night. Bernadette's boyfriend, Gordon Greene, is also devastated.

Mr Martin said: "We have spoken to him about what happened, but nobody is really making much sense at the minute. It's a hard time for everybody."

A stream of friends and

relatives yesterday visited the Martins' home, on a mixed housing estate in the new town of Craigavon, to offer condolences. The Martins are a devout Catholic family, but the well-wishers included many of Bernadette's Protestant friends from the food factory where she met her boyfriend.

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Foods, said people were in a

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The murderer was initially thought to have been committed by the Loyalist Volunteer Force, a new hardline terrorist group founded by renegade members of the Ulster Volunteer Force. However, the LVF issued a coded statement last night denying responsibility.

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"She was such a special girl;

we loved her so very much, it is hard to believe she really is gone. Whoever did that, I have no feelings for them. I can

forgive them, but God might forgive them."

Teachers setting more homework

Teachers are responding to government initiatives and already setting more homework and raising their expectations of pupils. David Blunkett said yesterday. Inspectors had found that primary schools in particular were making renewed attempts to raise standards, the Education and Employment Secretary told the annual conference of local authority leaders in Bristol.

Heart-attack man issues for stress

In a test case that could establish an employer's legal liability for stress-related illness, the manager of a shop in Taunton, Somerset, is suing his former employer claiming overwork brought on two heart attacks in nine months. Aidan Downing, 47, has been awarded legal aid to pursue his claim for £250,000 from the convenience store chain after the heart attacks left him unable to work.

Lord Chancellor plans open house

The Lord Chancellor wants to make his official residence available for public tours if a £650,000 refurbishment is approved. Lord Irvine of Laird QC has been criticised by Tory MPs over the proposed work although it is part of a conservation programme at the Palace of Westminster. His department said that the tours would appeal to people with a genuine interest in historic buildings and art.

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JENNERS OF EDINBURGH.

Unionists walk out of talks over disarmament plans

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UNIONISTS walked out of talks on the future of Northern Ireland at Stormont yesterday in protest at Government plans for disarming terrorists.

The Democratic Unionists and the small United Kingdom Unionist Party left when a Northern Ireland Office minister refused to answer questions about an Anglo-Irish paper on disarmament. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, also left. He said, however, that he had not joined the walkout because he still hoped to amend Anglo-Irish plans on weapons.

Mr Trimble immediately telephoned Downing Street to ask for an early meeting with Tony Blair to demand that firm guarantees are written into the Anglo-Irish paper to ensure that terrorists disarm.

The Unionists left after Paul Murphy, the Political Development Minister, read aloud an Anglo-Irish paper which clarified a document on disarming terrorists agreed last month by London and Dublin. Mr Murphy declined to answer a question from the Democratic Unionists because

he said that the paper had clarified the thinking of the two Governments and he did not have time to consult his Irish colleagues.

Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, who is firmly opposed to the Anglo-Irish plans, walked out in protest. The MP for East Belfast accused the Government of refusing to answer his question because the Anglo-Irish paper had been cleared with Sinn Féin. The DUP rejects the Anglo-Irish plans on weapons.

All the parties who walked out yesterday will return next Wednesday to vote on the Anglo-Irish paper. The DUP and the United Kingdom Unionists will vote against the paper. This will be a setback, but the talks will not collapse unless the UUP rejects the paper. Ministers will be hoping that Mr Trimble's moderate stance indicates that he will accept the Anglo-Irish plan, although they accept that he needs guarantees that disarmament will take place.

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Mr Trimble sought early

meeting with Tony Blair

to demand that firm

guarantees are written into the

Anglo-Irish paper.

Mr Trimble's move

comes as Europe

confronts the need for

drastic changes in the way it is run

with the decision to begin the

process to admit Cyprus and

five former communist countries into the EU.

Britain is one of the most

enthusiastic supporters of the

enlargement of the Community

and Mr Cook said yesterday

that it was "a historic opportunity to enhance sec-

turity and prosperity throughout Europe". Britain takes

over the rotating EU presidency in January in time to lead the opening of negotiations with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia,

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

NEWS 3

Job 11 in 110

Women tried to seduce me, says professor

A PHILOSOPHY professor told police that a student did a mock striptease and kissed her friend in front of him in a calculated attempt to seduce him, a court was told yesterday.

The pair, having failed in their attempt to "humiliate, seduce, or set him up", decided to concoct a story that he had indecently assaulted them, Reading Crown Court was told.

John Cottingham, 54, claimed in police interviews that he was the victim of a sexual "power play", when the students, aged 21 and 23, invited themselves to his study after a garden party last July. In a

taped interview played to the jury in which he denies indecent assault, he said: "They were trying to get a kick out of trying to seduce or entice a respected professor."

Professor Cottingham, head of philosophy at Reading University and a leading authority on Descartes, denied the students' claims that he had discussed the Marquis de Sade or mentioned whips and canes; or the possibility that the pair were lesbians. "We spoke about my Oxford education and discussed Descartes," he told

police. Nor had he fondled the breasts of both of them at the same time. "That is completely untrue. The idea that I could somehow simultaneously assault two grown women against their wills is absolutely ridiculous."

He told police that after 25 years' teaching at the university, he was sufficiently aware of the possible consequences not to allow young women into his room. But when the pair asked at the garden party if they could see his books, he consented. "Since there were two of

them, obviously any possibility of impropriety simply did not enter my mind."

As he tidied his paperwork, he turned round to find one had removed her bra. Then she went up to the other girl, and sort of hugged her, and actually kissed her, and said, "We do everything together, don't we?"

At that point, he said, he was thinking that they were disturbed, or suffering from personal problems — possibly stemming from their complicated relationship. Another possibility was that their actions were a power play to seduce

him, an eminent professor. "The latter seemed to me the most likely explanation for this behaviour," he said.

"I said quite firmly, 'I'm sorry, I don't think this is appropriate. I need to go home.' They then left giggling and whispering that they needed to go to the lavatory. He was expecting them back to collect their things, but five minutes later a security porter arrived.

Professor Cottingham said he was happily married with a 20-year-old son at university and a 17-

year-old daughter at school. That evening, he had three drinks, and was not drunk. "In hindsight, I made an error of judgment," he said. "It is a complete pack of lies, and that is very distressing and completely untrue."

They had done it "to humiliate, seduce, and set me up in some way". Their likely aim had been to test him, or put him in a difficult situation. "Having failed to do that, they may have been alarmed themselves that they would get into trouble, and therefore decided to make a fuss," he said.

The hearing continues today.

Eiffel Tower shut by the height of bad manners

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THOUSANDS of tourists were turned away from the Eiffel Tower yesterday when employees went on strike over the sacking of an official tour guide after a violent altercation with a holidaymaker suffering from vertigo.

Christine Harvey, a best-selling American writer who runs a marketing company in West Drayton, west London, claimed she and her friend, Hilde Bartlett, were "physically abused" by a rude and aggressive employee at the Paris landmark on June 17.

Mrs Harvey had become scared on the way to the second level, which is 150 metres high. She had tried to get out of the lift as the doors were about to close and asked the guide to let them stay on the first level. The 60-year-old tower worker, who is specifically employed to welcome visitors, had refused and then allegedly berated and manhandled the women.

"When we tried to ask him about staying on the first level, he physically grabbed us by the shoulders and shoved us a distance of one metre while shouting at us," Mrs Harvey wrote in a letter.

of complaints to the director of the tower when she returned, shaken, to the Concorde-Lafayette Hotel.

The tower management launched an investigation into the incident and, after obtaining further evidence from eyewitnesses, sacked the employee on Tuesday. The unnamed man, who has worked at the tower for 13 years, was given two months' pay and an additional sum to "take into account his personal situation".

His fellow workers promptly held a meeting to discuss the sacking and yesterday more than 50 of the tower's 180 employees went on strike, preventing access to the tower. The strikers claimed the guide had been the victim of unfair dismissal and insisted the "incident" had been exaggerated.

Hugues de Baillifcourt, assistant secretary-general of the New Eiffel Tower Company, a private concern that manages the tower, said yesterday: "This was a very serious act by this employee. It was quite unacceptable. There are limits. Does someone have to commit a strangu-

Field sports parents halt school visit

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A VISIT to a deer sanctuary by a group of primary school children has been cancelled after objections from parents who support field sports.

Some parents of pupils at Dulverton First School, on Exmoor, refused to allow their children on the trip to the 225-acre deer reserve run by the League Against Cruel Sports. A letter about the outing instead on nature walks.

Graham Sirl, of the league, said: "The

Hyde Park rally to protest at government plans to ban field sports.

Charles Pope, head teacher of the 115-pupil school, said: "Many objected and indicated they would withdraw their children for the day. To maintain the school's impartiality in this issue we decided to change the venue. We regret that sensitive political issues have been introduced into a school event with an educational purpose." The pupils went instead on nature walks.

Graham Sirl, of the league, said: "The

children are not brought into our offices or shown the gory photographs of hunting or bombarded with propaganda. They go straight to the sanctuary to see the deer and visit the wildlife area. We do not promote the league, just the wildlife."

Mal Treharne, of the British Field Sports Society, said: "The League Against Cruel Sports is a political organisation and delivers a political message. I can well understand parents returning from the magnificent rally in London and not wanting their children to visit."

Toast was premature for molester GP

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

NEWSPAPER photographs of a family doctor raising a glass of champagne to toast being cleared of sex charges prompted other patients to complain. Yesterday Reginald Myint was jailed for nine months for indecently assaulting one of them.

Five women patients who felt that they, too, had been assaulted by Myint at his practice in Stockport com-

plained to police. All claimed that they were molested by Myint. 54, during intimate examinations carried out between 1978 and 1987. Last February Myint was convicted of indecent assault of one, cleared of charges against a second but had to be retried on allegations made by a third woman.

Yesterday at Minshull Street Crown Court, Man-

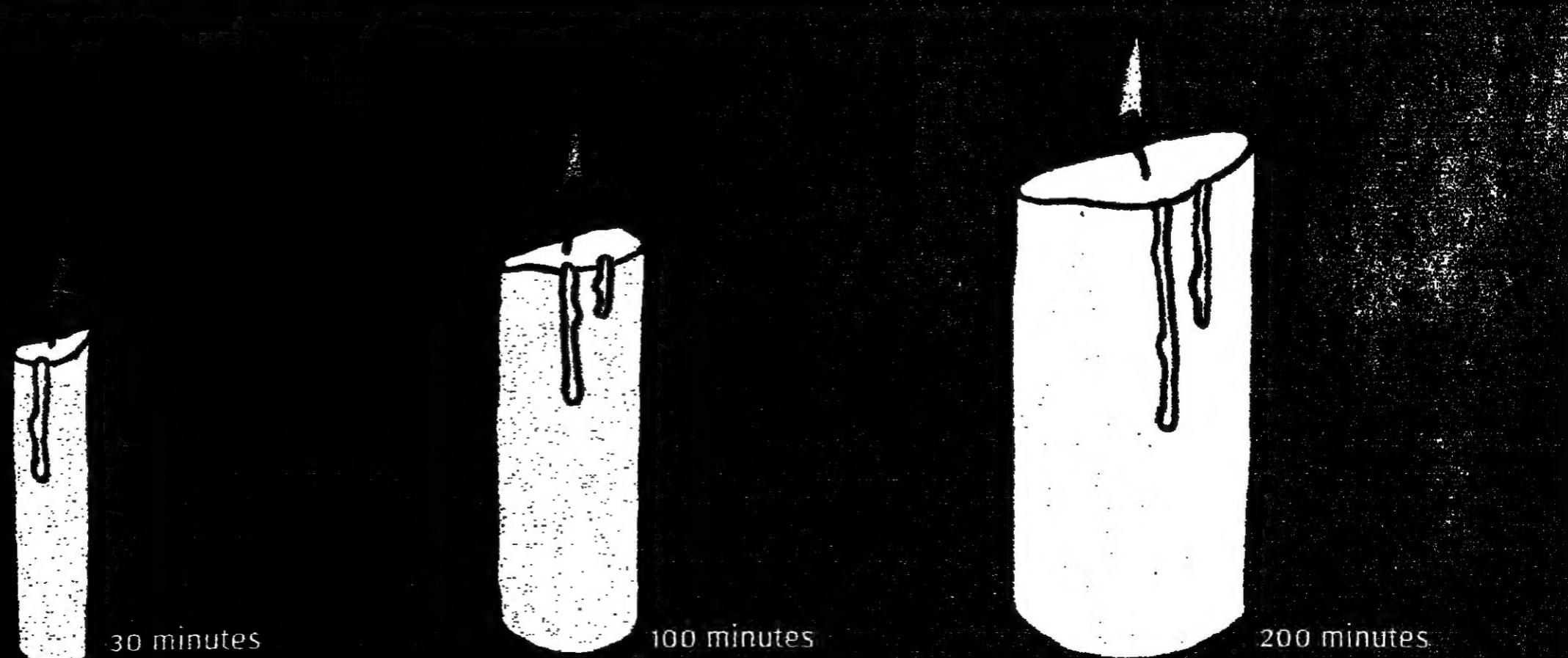
chester, the retrial jury — who were not told of the other conviction — acquitted Myint of the last charge. They were asked to leave the court shortly before Judge Jonathan Geake sentenced the doctor to nine months' imprisonment for indecently assaulting a woman now aged 50. Myint now faces being struck off.

Police began investigating

Myint in March 1994 when

two of his women patients came forward to claim that he had indecently assaulted them.

The Crown Prosecution Service decided not to press charges, but Myint was brought before a disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council in January 1995 where he was cleared of serious professional misconduct.



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Judges tell vexatious priest: pray be silent

A CLERGYMAN was declared a vexatious litigant yesterday after launching legal proceedings 14 times in three years in his campaign to stop the ordination of women priests.

On an application brought by the Attorney-General, two High Court judges barred the Rev Paul Williamson from starting fresh ones or continuing existing ones without High Court permission.

Although the judgment means the English and Welsh courts may have rid themselves of a turbulent priest, the Church of England was warned that it had not heard the last of him.

Mr Williamson, 49, who has accused the Archbishop of Canterbury of heresy and the General Synod of heresy, said after the hearing: "I will pursue this matter with every fibre of my being while there is mortal breath in my body, *ad nauseam, ad infinitum, ad eternum*. St Thomas à Becket lost his life standing up to the King for what he believed. The blood of martyrs is the seedbed of the Church. I commit my cause to my Lord and

Court bar put on opponent of women priests, reports Michael Horsnell

Saviour Jesus Christ." He was refused leave to appeal against the judgment of Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Jowitt but said that he would take his case to the European Court of Justice.

Mr Williamson, priest-in-charge of St George's Church, Feltham, west London, was backed in court by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. Mr Paisley said he believed that Mr Williamson had put to the courts a valid question involving the legal standing of the Coronation Oath.

"He was not being vexatious, but was trying to pursue a case which ought to be answered," Mr Paisley said. "Mr Williamson, a single man from Caithness who was ordained 25 years ago, owes £22,000 in legal costs. The Church of England is understood to have spent more than £50,000 on its costs.

He maintains that the ordination of women breaches the

Coronation Oath. He says it was "an abuse of the Queen's assent and signature to pronounce a so-called validity for the measure and canon purporting to legalise heretical priestesses in the Church of England".

Ian Burnett, representing the Attorney-General, said Mr Williamson first launched proceedings in February 1994.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York had been accused of treason, and the Bishops of Southwark, Wilesden and Bristol had also been

Most recently he sought to overturn the appointment of the Rev Lucy Winkett as a minor canon at St Paul's Cathedral. Despite repeated court defeats, rebuffs and warnings from judges that his actions were becoming "repetitive and abusive", he had remained undeterred.

Mr Williamson told the High Court judges: "I have not sought to make myself obnoxious to the Church of England. The Church of England declined to comment.



Ian Paisley at court with the Rev Paul Williamson

Crossroads may be dead end for Parker Bowles

BY ALAN HAMILTON

TODAY Camilla Parker Bowles celebrates her fiftieth birthday. An essentially insignificant milestone on the route of the average woman's life may turn out to be more of a crossroads for the close friend of the Prince of Wales.

The highlight of the celebrations happens tomorrow, when the Prince hosts a private but well-publicised party for Mrs Parker Bowles and a select group of friends at Highgrove, his Gloucestershire home. The event is the first firm acknowledgement of their relationship since the Prince's public confession of adultery on television.

Guests are expected to include the small circle of acquaintances who are in touch with both parties: the Earl and Countess of Shelburne, the Earl and Countess of Halifax, the Palmer-Tomkinsons, and possibly Mrs Parker Bowles' sister Annabel, and her two children, Laura, 18, and Tom, 21, the latter now an undergraduate at Oxford.

However, no member of the Prince's family is thought to have been invited, certainly not his sons and not even his sister, the Princess Royal, to whom he is reasonably close.

Mrs Parker Bowles is acknowledged by those who know her as a notably tough character, a trait inherited from her father, Bruce Shand, a tough old warrior now aged 80, who won a double Military Cross and demanded a hip replacement in his late 70s so that he could continue to ride to hounds.

For all her toughness, Mrs Parker Bowles may find that, as she reaches the crossroads today, all the obvious options may turn out to be blind alleys.

Parker Bowles: party for selected friends

Princess plans charity trip to Hong Kong

DIANA, Princess of Wales, is to pay a private visit to Hong Kong in September to support a local hospice charity, making her the first member of the Royal Family to visit since the handover to China (Alan Hamilton writes).

The announcement was made by her office at Kensington Palace as the Princess and her sons continued their holiday in the South of France as guests of Mohamed Al Fayed.

During her two-day visit to the former colony, the Princess will attend a dinner and

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مكتبة الأصل

Andrews claims fiance's family upset her in court

BY JOANNA BALE

TRACIE ANDREWS, accused of the murder of her fiancé, Lee Harvey, broke off from giving evidence yesterday to complain that his family were making remarks about her from the public gallery.

While answering questions from her lawyer, Ronald Thwaites, QC, Miss Andrews interrupted and said: "I'm sorry, I won't put up with such remarks."

Mr Thwaites said he had not heard anything and asked what she meant. She indicated Mr Harvey's parents, Ray and Maureen, and relatives sitting in the front row of the public gallery. Mr Harvey's family have reserved seats in the public gallery, which has been packed throughout the trial.

The judge, Mr Justice Buckley, said he had not heard any remarks but said anyone who made comments in future would be asked to leave.

Miss Andrews, 28, of Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, finished giving evidence at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday. Later the court was told that a key

defence witness had a string of convictions, including an attempt to pervert the course of justice.

Stephen Rodenhurst, owner of a demolition company, said that he had been involved in a road-rage incident earlier on the day of Mr Harvey's murder, a few miles away. A man had threatened to stab him in the neck.

Mr Rodenhurst said he had contacted Miss Andrews's solicitors after seeing an E-fit of a man allegedly involved in Mr Harvey's murder.

David Crigman, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Rodenhurst had convictions dating back to 1979, including assault. He had served prison sentences and had been arrested and brought to the court yesterday after refusing to give evidence. Mr Rodenhurst said that he had been unhappy with the approach of Miss Andrews's solicitors, but stood by his account of the road-rage incident.

Miss Andrews denies murder. The trial continues.

Clark mends his 'monstrous' ways for Tory TV series

By CAROL MITCHELL, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ALAN CLARK promised yesterday that his television history of the Tory party will spare his colleagues the kind of "monstrous" treatment he meted out in his political diaries.

Mr Clark, who became MP for Kensington and Chelsea in the general election after a five-year break from the Commons, ends his BBC2 series with the Tories' landslide defeat on May 1. But the former Defence Minister, who called Kenneth Clarke a "pudgy puffed ball" and Michael Heseltine "that dreadful charlatan" in his acerbic diaries, said that he would not be beastly to his fellow MPs this time. The programme was intended as a serious chronicle of the party.

"I have written about my colleagues in the most monstrous way and they have welcomed me back, for which I am most grateful," he said at the launch of BBC2's £75 million autumn schedule. "This is totally different from the diaries, which were an instant

recall of things in an uninhibited way. It is not a post mortem."

His approach appears not to have been influenced by any desire to rejoin the Tory party's front bench, which he said was like "the Latvian Government in 1943". During the Second World War Germany occupied Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, rendering their governments impotent.

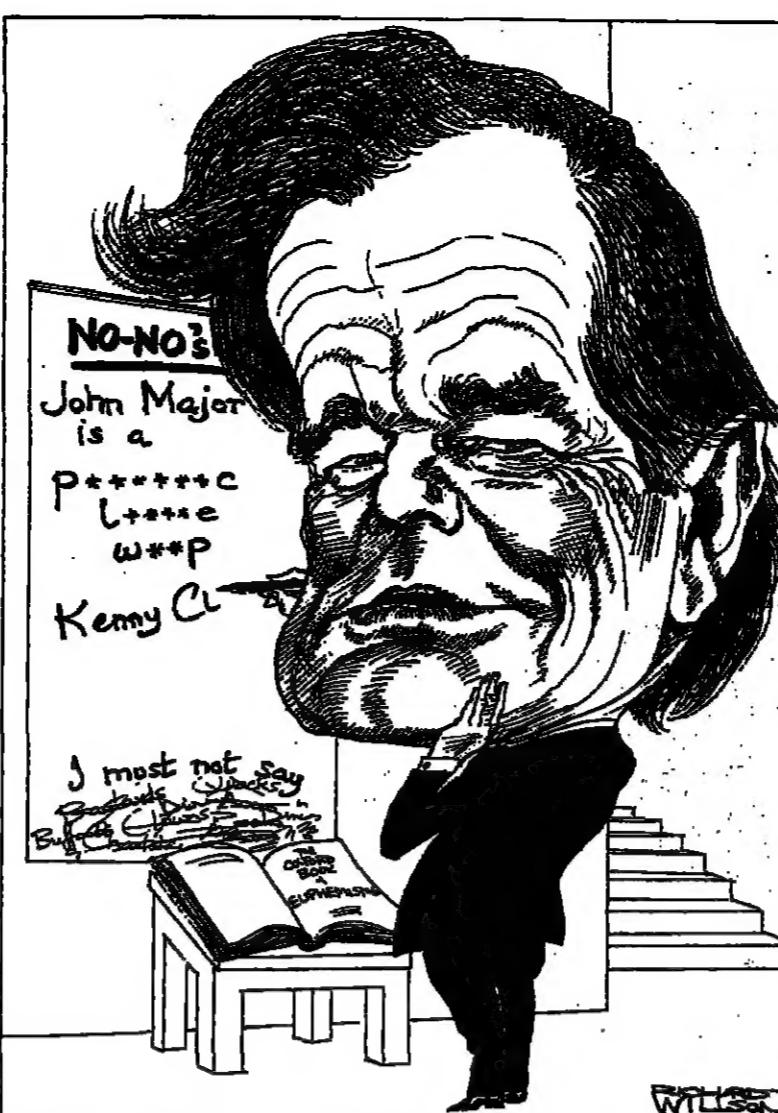
Mr Clark denied that his return to the Commons created a conflict of interest. "No-one has ever accused me of not being objective and the series is an objective history of the Conservative Party from which people will have to draw their own conclusions. It is up to people to decide what they think of me as a TV presenter."

The first part of Alan Clark's *History of the Tory Party* covers 1922-39 from Stanley Baldwin's emergence as leader of the divided party to Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler and Winston Churchill's entry into the Cabinet. The second claims to

shed new light on Churchill. Mr Clark repeats his controversial views that Churchill broke the bank, lost the empire and neglected domestic affairs and politics to the detriment of his party. Part three includes the decline of Tory fortunes under Edward Heath and the challenge mounted by Margaret Thatcher. The final episode charts Mrs Thatcher's leadership years to the catastrophic election defeat this year.

Mr Clark declined to reveal his assessment of John Major's tenure as Prime Minister because the series was based on a book due out this autumn, for which he had not yet negotiated the serial rights.

The autumn schedule also features two former Tory Cabinet ministers. Michael Portillo presents a programme next month in which he reports on Tory infighting in the 19th century and the Tory wilderness years. In November Douglas Hurd presents *The Search for Peace*, a reflection on major wars this century.



How Blair can benefit from gesture on PR

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Tony Blair is helping himself as well as Paddy Ashdown in deciding to press ahead with legislation for proportional representation in the European Parliament elections in 1999. The use of first-past-the-post for Euro-elections has been increasingly anomalous.

This is not merely because Britain is the only country to retain the system in face of pressure for a uniform electoral approach throughout Europe based on PR. The Tories successfully deflected these calls after direct elections were introduced in 1979. This was based on a defence of single-member constituencies, as well as the familiar conservative argument of the "wedge" — the fear that conceding PR for the European elections would increase the pressure for it at Westminster.

The winner-take-all nature of first-past-the-post exaggerates the impact of shifts in votes, as we saw on May 1 when Labour won 63 per cent of the seats on nearly 44 per cent of the vote. This leverage is even greater with the Euros seats, which include seven or eight Westminster seats. In the European elections, the Tories won 60 out of 78 seats in Britain in 1979 on just over 50 per cent of the total vote. By 1994, the tables had been turned. Labour won 62 out of 64 seats (again excluding Northern Ireland) with 44 per cent of the vote.

In David Butler and Martin Westlake's *British Politics and European Elections 1994*, John Curtice and Michael Steed estimate what the outcome would have been then if a regional list system had been used. This would allocate seats proportionally according to voter preferences within 11 regions. This still helps larger parties compared to a national PR system. Although Labour would have 18 fewer Euro-MPs than now, the party would still have 44 seats, or 52 per cent, 8 percentage points more than its share of the vote.

So a switch to a regional list system would mean fewer Labour MEPs. However, under first-past-the-post Labour will almost certainly lose seats in June 1999, near the mid-point of the Parliament. If Labour is as unpopular then, as previous governments have

been in their mid-terms, it might paradoxically have more seats under PR than it would have as a result of the exaggerated swings produced by first-past-the-post. So PR may be a cushion to the inevitable swing against the Government.

A regional list system would give power to the party leadership which controls the lists. Some existing Labour MEPs have been distinctly off-message in their willingness to challenge Mr Blair's approach and to express their "old" Labour views. Few years would be shed in Millbank Tower at a culling of MEPs.

The uncertainty about the Bill has been all rather odd since Labour has been committed for some time to changing the electoral system in 1999 (most recently in its joint statement with the Liberal Democrats) and everyone has known the need for rapid action in view of the tight timetable. The Liberal Democrat leadership is pleased with the Government's move, not least because it vindicates Mr Ashdown's decision not to make a public fuss and trust that Mr Blair would deliver, what is privately known as "constructive opposition". The two leaders talked on their visit to Hong Kong two weeks ago, particularly during a refuelling stop in Siberia.

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T

he next stage is the

proposed commission

to produce a PR alternative

to first-past-the-post

for Westminster, to be put to a

referendum later in the Parliament.

The Liberal Democrats are not balking at the table and setting deadlines. Mr Blair

remains very cool to PR for

Westminster, so an announce-

ment is unlikely before the

autumn. But, for the moment,

Mr Blair has made a friendly

gesture, albeit one that helps

him too.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons, questions to the Chancellor and the Attorney General: Council Tax Limitation (England) (Maximum Amounts) Order; backbench debate on regeneration of Thetford in the Levels; and the Social Security (Second Phases) Bill committee debate on Government's assessment of progress in meeting Maastricht treaty provisions; debate on future of Birmingham hospitals.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

DW Blair can benefit from sture on PR

REVIEW ON POLITICS

HOME NEWS 9

Fundholder patients must join the queue

Hospitals will admit only on basis of need.

Ian Murray reports

QUEUE-JUMPING by patients of fundholding doctors is to be stopped from next April, when hospitals will have to admit people for treatment solely on the basis of medical need.

The Prime Minister, announcing an end to privileged treatment for the 60 per cent of patients who have fundholding GPs, told the Commons: "It is based on two simple ideas — rebuilding the NHS and fairness, neither of which the Conservative Party understand."

Answering an emergency question, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said the fundholding system created by the Tory Government was "unfair to patients, repugnant to the doctors and nurses who had to apply it, and cost a fortune in extra paperwork."

"At the general election we promised to restore fairness to the health service, end the two-tier system and ensure that access to treatment is based on need and need alone. We pledged to change the system so that no patients and no GP practices suffered any longer from the unfairness introduced by the Conservatives."

He said that all NHS trusts must operate a fair-waiting list for urgent admissions regardless of who is commissioning the care. The waiting time standards will, nevertheless, vary between health authorities with each of them setting its own maximum.

Drinking toll blamed on increase in divorce

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S health system is in danger of collapse unless there is much better co-operation between its 68 hospital trusts, 16 health authorities and 32 boroughs.

The health warning comes in a report by the King's Fund, the leading independent think-tank on health policy. Dr John Pattison, of University College Medical School, and vice-chairman of the fund, says London's diversity has created defensive, parochialism and destructive competitiveness among health providers. Plans to rationalise and close hospitals, put forward in the Tomlinson Report five years ago, have stalled because of "institutional resistance".

The fund says that apart from the difficulties in providing suitable hospital services, primary care is under great strain, mental care is less well provided than anywhere else in Britain, and large areas of inner city poverty create enormous problems of their own.

The Government is conducting its own review of London's health needs, but the report does not call for a new system, rather better co-operation between the existing health providers. It suggests health and social service budgets should be pooled to help to spread the available resources. It calls for a public health strategy covering the capital to improve living conditions, the environment, transport and hygiene. Most important of all are the provision of more facilities to look after the mentally ill and ageing populations.

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authorities adopt the principles of fundholders. Authorities cannot continue to buy a block of treatment for unnamed patients but will need to track each patient to ensure each person gets the care they need. Block contracts can be cheaper, but it is impossible with them to tell if the care is going to the right person or if the bill is correct."

The British Medical Association also welcomed the Government's statement but said that equity for all must not mean equity at the lower end of the scale. "We want to see that patients of non-fundholding GPs have the same opportunity for enhanced treatment as those from fundholding practices," Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the association's GPs' committee, said. "This is an opportunity for levelling up, not levelling down."

Philip Hunt, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, which speaks for all health authorities and hospitals, said that the principle of equitable treatment was clearly right but that health authorities and GPs would need to work together to sort out priorities. "It will be essential to ensure that GPs have an important role to play in influencing the quality of treatment to be given to patients," he said.

Leading article, page 19



Femme assise dans un fauteuil, painted by Picasso in 1913

A dozen
Picassos
released
for sale

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A DOZEN spectacular paintings by Picasso are to be sold as part of a collection described as the most important private holding of 20th-century art offered at auction.

More than £80 million is expected to be paid for 115 paintings, drawings, sculptures and prints that also include more recent modern masters such as the Pop artists Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg.

The highlights are Picasso's poignant *Femme assise dans un fauteuil* of 1913, regarded as one of the most powerful nude depictions of the early 20th century, estimated at £12 million; and *Le Rêve*, one of his exquisite portraits, estimated at £20 million.

The collection was put together by a New York couple, Victor and Sally Ganz, who made their fortune in costume jewellery and championed artists long before they were known. The works will be sold by Christie's on November 10.



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Publisher takes a £750,000 shine to GCSE failure

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN aged 25 who failed GCSE English has reportedly signed a publishing deal worth £750,000 for her first three books.

Keri Beevis, who writes bloodthirsty horror stories on a computer in her bedroom under the pen name Keri Leigh, has been taken up by the publishers Buckley-Bennion.

Peter Willis, her agent, said: "Although Buckley-Bennion specialise in sports books, when the first novel came on their desk, they saw gold dust there. She's going to be a very wealthy girl."

While the publishing industry expressed surprise at the size of the deal, Andrew MacLachlan of Buckley-Bennion said: "We saw her great potential and knew she had talent." He added: "£750,000 would seem a lot for one book, but this is for three. She's worth it."

The publishers said Ms Beevis took up writing at the age of 12, after her father, an entertainment agent who used to run a video shop in Norwich, left a video of *The Shining* lying around at home. The Stanley Kubrick film, based on the book by Stephen King and starring Jack Nicholson, left a lasting



Nicholson: inspiration in the film *The Shining*

The book is set in America, which she has never visited. Ms Beevis said: "It will shock people. I don't hold back on anything."

She added: "The main inspiration for me was all sorts of horror films. I am a big fan of Hitchcock and I would have married him if I could. But it was *The Shining* that really hooked me on horror. I loved the atmosphere of the film, the music, the drama, and most of all Jack Nicholson. To be honest, I always had a sick streak."

Buckley-Bennion said the first book would be published this month and Mr Willis claimed that film rights were being negotiated. It will be a new departure for Buckley-Bennion: their other publications involve the agriculture industry and a rugby book that W.H. Smith said it was considering for the rugby season.

Ms Beevis said she was such a daydreamer at school that she managed to pass only one subject at GCSE – art. "I've just found my old report card," she said yesterday. "They said how rubbish I was at English. They said I was a big disappointment. I failed at school and thought, how dare they fail me, it's my favourite subject. I retook it at college and failed."

Despite her impending

impression on his daughter. She said she used to wake up at night screaming, imagining that Nicholson, who played a psychotic hotel caretaker, was in her room.

It was her father who sent Ms Beevis's manuscripts to Buckley-Bennion in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Two of her three novels are about serial killers. The first, *When the Pen Writes*, is about two friends who write horror stories only to find their fiction becomes reality when a serial killer copies the murder storylines from their books.

wealth, Ms Beevis said she

would not be giving up her day job at a travel agency in Norwich. Although she joked about buying the agency, she insisted that her life would not change and said she would continue to live at home with her parents.

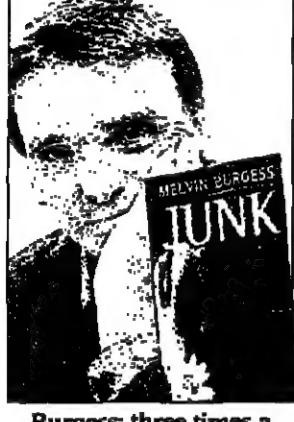
Her agent said that her workmates inspired many of the twists in her tales. They had also been her most avid readers. Mr Willis explained that every week Ms Beevis wrote another chapter for her colleagues. "They're all youngsters. She takes in copies. They have had to change the times

when they work on Mondays.

The whole department reads them. At first, they were told, "Get on with your work." But now, everyone comes in and wants to read the next chapter on a Monday."

Buckley-Bennion said in its press release about the publishing deal that Ms Beevis "tested the water with three major UK publishers and each time, without exception, received a positive reply. They were all quick to realize that here is a major talent who can not only tell a good story but can tell it using mainly dialogue."

Story of teenage heroin addict wins prize for children's books



Burgess: three times a runner-up for medal

A NOVEL about a teenage girl who becomes addicted to heroin after running away from her dysfunctional family won the 1997 Carnegie Medal yesterday for an "outstanding book for children". *Junk*, by Melvin Burgess, was praised by Lesley Sim, chairman of the judges, for its narrative drive, moral complexity and subtle characterisation.

Critics of the book, of whom Nick Seaton, chairman of the Campaign for Real Education, is one of the most trenchant, were less impressed. They complained that a distinguished children's book prize ought not to honour works that included scenes of violence and depravity.

"And yet, it deals with a very difficult, complex subject with real

insight and sensitivity. There is nothing depraved in it. Burgess seeks not to glamourise drug-taking but to confront. It is a problem that cannot be ignored. People should remember that many of the classics read by teenagers, such as Hardy and Chaucer, are full of violence."

Melvin Burgess, whose brother was a heroin addict, was born in London in 1954. After leaving school at 18, he trained as a journalist and published his first novel, *The Cry of the Wolf*, in 1990. *Junk*, published by Andersen Press, is his eighth novel; he has been a runner-up for the Carnegie on three occasions. He

was presented with a gold medal and £1,000 worth of books to be donated to a charity or institution of his choice at a ceremony at the South Bank Centre in London.

Burgess said of the book: "I was pretty sure if it was going to work, it would kick up some sort of fuss. I didn't sit down to write a warning but the story tells its own cautionary tale. It's depicting what can happen with heroin. Any book about it is a warning in itself."

That the Carnegie offers no prize money does not detract from the value of a prize first presented in 1957 to Arthur Ransome for *Pigeon*

Post; the tangible rewards come from the consequent spike in hardback and paperback sales. Penguin Children's Books report, for instance, that *Flower Babies*, by Anne Fine, enjoyed a sevenfold increase in paperback sales after winning the prize in 1992.

Miranda McKeearney, of the Library Association, which administers the award, said: "That there is no prize money, matters less than getting on the shortlist, since sales are where its real worth lie." The list of previous winners reads like a roll-call of great children's books and authors, and include C.S. Lewis,

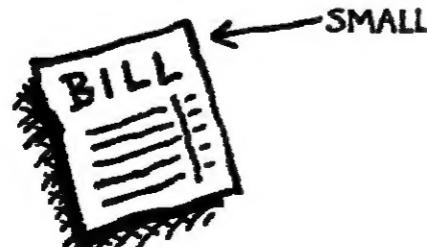
Walter de la Mare, Mary Norton and Eleanor Farjeon. The prize was established in 1936 to mark the centenary of the birth of Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish-American entrepreneur and philanthropist whose wealth helped to build almost 3,000 libraries, including 660 in Britain.

This year there were 54 entries read by 13 judges, all of whom are librarians and members of the Youth Libraries Group. *The Tulip Touch* (Hamish Hamilton, £4.99) by Anne Fine, and *Johnny and the Bomb* (Corgi, £3.99) by Terry Pratchett were highly commended.

Leading article, page 19
Teenagers' verdicts, page 55

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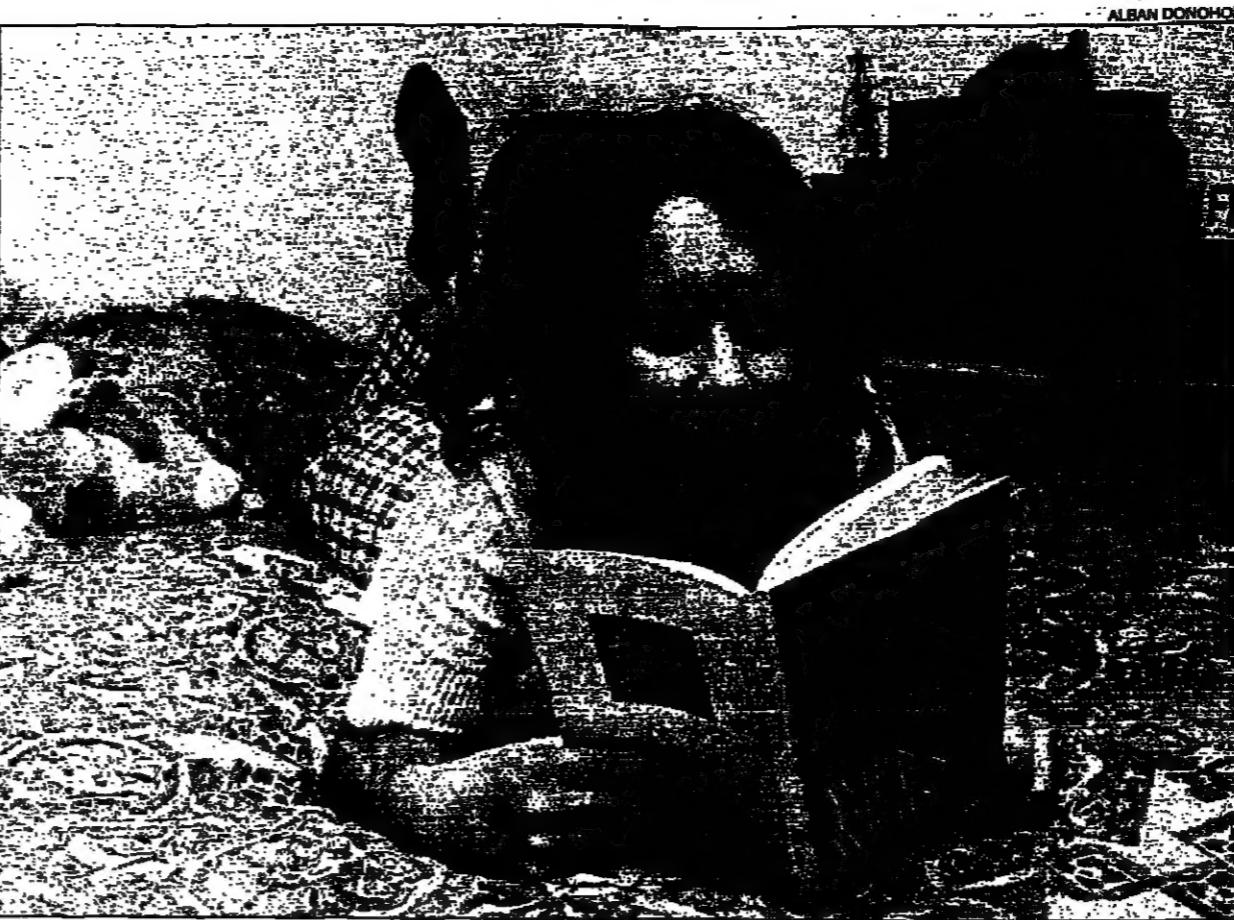
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Keri Beevis in the bedroom where she writes her horror stories and, below, an extract from her first book

Deal is a good one for starters

By ERICA WAGNER

THE reported £750,000 deal for Keri Beevis's three horror novels is remarkable but not unknown for a first-time author. Arundhati Roy received £160,000 from HarperCollins for the British rights to her first novel, *The God of Small Things*. She has made more than £600,000 from the book.

Martin Amis notoriously received £480,000 for his last novel, *The Information*, but he is an author with a literary track record. The thriller writer Michael Kidman received £250,000 for his first two novels.

In the world of big-time commercial fiction, however, £750,000 can look like small change. Stephen King raked in £23 million for his latest four-book deal, while John Grisham sold film rights to *The Firm* and *The Chamber* for £2.5 million before he had written a word of them.

Carolyn Mays, Stephen King's editor at Hodder and Stoughton, said that these were established authors whose works have moved into the mainstream. King got £2,000 for his early novel, *Carrie*.

Ms Mays said: "For someone to have done this for their first book is extraordinary. It will be very interesting to see how they publish it, because it will have to reach a bigger audience than just the horror market to earn that back."

A wave splashed against Jordan's face. Her mouth filled with salty water. She choked and spat it out.

She longed to wipe the water from her stinging eyes. Unable to though, she closed them tight as another wave hit her.

The man stood watching her for a minute.

"Please don't leave me," she begged.

The water was already up to her mouth. Jordan tried to tilt her head back.

The man shook his head and smiled to himself. "So long Jordan Presley."

He began to walk away.

"Wait, come back. Don't leave me here!"

The man disappeared out of sight.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

OVERSEAS NEWS 11

Santer maps out new 21-member EU and key spending reforms

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN STRASBOURG

THE map of a new 21-member European Union, with borders reaching the Russian frontier, was laid out to EU states yesterday along with radical spending reforms intended to limit the burden of absorbing fiscally poor former Communist states and Cyprus into the Western bloc.

Britain hailed the "Agenda 2000" plan, announced by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, as the opening of a new chapter in the history of the European Union.

"We must grasp this historic opportunity to enhance security and prosperity throughout Europe," Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said. "We now have an opportunity both to end the divisions which have scarred our continent since the war and to shape new policies which will bring benefits to our citizens."

Britain, one of the most enthusiastic supporters of expanding the EU to the former Soviet bloc countries, takes over the rotating EU presidency in January in time to lead the opening of negotiations with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Commission's choice of the five European countries must first be endorsed by EU leaders at a December summit.

Only one in the EU's 40-year history have governments deferred the Commission's choice for new member. That came in 1963 when France vetoed Britain's first application to join.

Cyprus whose prospective membership is already drawing threats from Turkey, was promised an automatic place at negotiations in 1995. The EU wants the breakaway Turkish part of the Mediterranean island to be included in accession talks. Intense diplomacy is under way to resolve the 25-year-old division with the Greek-Cypriot Government of Cyprus. Turkey, which has been trying to join the EU for a quarter of a century, was given a consolation prize yesterday of a promising closer association.



The Commission's tightly-budgeted plan prompted scepticism among members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, where Mr Santer presented it. Many voiced doubts about the Commission's optimistic assumption that the economies of the 15 would grow by 2.5 per cent a year until 2006 and the Eastern applicants' by more than 4 per cent.

This will be necessary to keep the EU's overall spending below the EU's current 1.27 per cent ceiling of GDP. Mr Santer, who is staking his reputation on the "Agenda 2000" scheme, promised to keep the cost of expansion below that ceiling, which would apply to the EU's next spending programme, from 2000-2006.

Mr Santer and the Commission's 1,200-page package were reticent about predicting the likely date for the biggest and most politically challenging expansion in the EU's history. "Around about 2002" was the closest Santer estimate.

The lack of deadlines reflects the widespread qualms among EU governments over embarking too quickly on an expensive remake of its estimates.

EU'S NEW MEMBERS?	
Existing members of EU	15
New applicants	6
Source: EU, 1995 figures	
FINLAND	
SWEDEN	
UNITED KINGDOM	
IRELAND	
THE NETHERLANDS	
DENMARK	
FRANCE	
BELGIUM	
LUXEMBOURG	
GERMANY	
AUSTRIA	
SPAIN	
ITALY	
PORUGAL	
GREECE	
Estonia	Pop: 1.8m GDP per head: \$3,262
Poland	Pop: 38.8m GDP per head: \$3,354
Czech Republic	Pop: 10.3m GDP per head: \$3,208
Hungary	Pop: 10.2m GDP per head: \$3,207
Slovenia	Pop: 2.0m GDP per head: \$4,705
Cyprus	Populated areas only Pop: 0.825m GDP per head: \$3,246

Union that will inevitably end its days as a cosy club of prosperous nations. France and other founder nations are banking on the launch of monetary union in 1999 as the key to ensuring the existence of a close-knit core of members who will resist the dilution of the European enterprise.

None of the successful European applicants passed the full entrance test, which requires a functioning democracy, market economy and ability to assume the responsibilities of the single market, monetary union and all other EU rules. The Commission urged all to make more effort.

Estonia, the Baltic state that led the breakup of the Soviet Union, must integrate the stateless Russian minority of its population, the Commission said. Poland, the biggest of the new entrants, must tackle its huge farm sector.

The Commission took pains, however, to insist that it was keeping the door open for later entry by the five other applicants which it had ruled out as unready for EU membership: Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania. Their cases will be reviewed annually.

Mr Santer also called for a new inter-governmental conference, or IGC, to start within little more than a year, to tackle the reforms to the EU's decision-making machinery that EU leaders failed to settle at Amsterdam last month.

Mr Cook said Britain also supported the Commission's proposals to help to pay for the Central and Eastern European countries to complete their transition from state-commanded economies to democratic market economies. Calling for a "veritable Marshall plan", Mr Santer estimated that £50 billion would be needed to help to integrate the five.

The figure testifies to the far more complex nature of joining the EU compared with the relatively low-cost entry to Nato, which embraced Budapest, Warsaw and Prague.

Leading article, page 19

Farmers hail wider market for exports

CHARLES BRENNER
in PARIS AND HAMBURG

BRITAIN'S farmers are expected to weather without undue difficulty the shake-up in farm spending caused by the European Union's expansion.

"On the whole it will be good for the United Kingdom," a senior EU farm official said. "Britain sells

abroad more than most and one of the big changes will be an end to controls on exports outside the EU."

Despite the positive gloss by Brussels on the reform to the common agricultural policy (CAP), British farmers will inevitably have to learn to live with less as the EU proceeds with long overdue reforms to a system which devours half the annual budget of £65

billion. The main aim of the shake-up is to make a further leap away from the system of pouring money into supporting prices at levels far above world levels. A continuation of the last reforms launched in 1992, the new approach aims to end beef mountains and wine lakes created by over-production and the buying in of crops by the EU to simply keep prices steady. But Brit-

ish consumer and environmental groups voiced disappointment, saying the reform could be more costly than the existing system and no less damaging to the countryside.

The National Consumer Council, which calculates that the CAP now costs the average family of four about £20 a week through a mixture of extra taxes and artificially high food prices, said the proposed reform was a "step in the right direction" but did not go nearly far enough.

The Council for Protection of Rural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said a great opportunity had been missed to attach environmental conditions to farm subsidies.

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Stars take lesson in survival tactics

Murder is boost for manual on how to keep stalkers at bay

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE MURDER of Gianni Versace has given an even bigger boost to a publishing phenomenon of the summer: a self-help manual on how stars — and ordinary people — can protect themselves from stalkers and assassins.

Gavin de Becker, "security consultant to the stars", who has worked for Elizabeth Taylor and the O.J. Simpson prosecution team, has topped the bestseller lists with the lecture Americans were waiting to hear: *The Gift of Fear: Survival signs that protect us from violence*.

Fear of murder needs no explanation in modern America. To that has increasingly been added the fear of unwanted, threatening, attention; according to US government estimates, one woman in 20 will be stalked at some time in her life. Public anxiety has been stirred further by high-profile cases, such as John Hinckley Jr. who shot President Reagan in 1981 to demonstrate his obsession with film star Jodie Foster, or Mark Chapman, who shot John Lennon in 1980.

But de Becker's message is that those who share the fatalism of President John Kennedy, who famously said that no assassin can be stopped because "all anyone has to do is be willing to trade his life for the President's", are wrong. "Assassination not only can be prevented, it is prevented far more often than it succeeds," he says. Violent crime is less random than people choose to think: they prefer to feel fatalistic rather than protect themselves — and there is a lot they can do.

His Los Angeles-based company, Gavin de Becker Inc., has advised on 20,000 cases; while he will not name his clients, his book credits Cher, Joan Rivers, Jeff Goldblum and Brooke Shields as "extraordinary friends whose less-

sons run throughout this book". He also advises the Government on threats to officials, judges, and abortion clinics, and helps companies with threats from angry employees.

Most danger comes from people you know, particularly spouses or lovers, he points out. But he argues that even serial killers, such as that played by Sir Anthony Hopkins in *The Silence of the Lambs*, are understandable and predictable. He quotes research by legendary FBI behavioural scientist Robert Ressler as suggesting that 100 per cent of serial killers "had been abused as children either by violence, neglect or humiliation". De Becker's basic lesson is simple: pay attention to your intuition, that niggling sense that something is not quite right.

He warns against chronic anxiety: "many Americans who wouldn't travel to see the Pyramids for fear of being killed in Egypt stay home, where danger is 20 times greater". But he argues that fear is a normally accurate warning of danger: victims of the Unabomber mused "do you think this is a bomb?" before opening the packages that killed them.

For ordinary life, he gives unremarkable but useful rules such as: "Don't get into a lift with a man who looks at you intently; don't accept help with groceries in an underground car park; don't jog with Walkman headphones on." But to people in public life, his message is blunter: they should all expect unwanted attention.

Given the near-certainty that a star will attract at least one disturbed fan, he argues that security arrangements are staggeringly lax. He directs particular passion against the security at the Citizen Cup in Hamburg for the "negligence" that led to the stabbing of Yugoslav-born tennis star Monica Seles, at the height of the conflict in her former homeland in 1993, when security should have been tighter than ever.

But his greatest anger is directed at the Los Angeles police for failing to act on signs that Nicole Simpson-Brown was likely to be killed by her former husband O.J.

Among other sobering lessons, de Becker warns his star clients against putting complete faith in security guards, a profession which "gave us the Son of Sam killer, the assassin of John Lennon" as well as thousands of arsonists and rapists. Nor should they put much faith in court orders to restrain a violent partner: studies suggest in half of the cases, they may provoke more

violence. The core of his job is in deciding when the threats are becoming serious. He took it seriously when a man sent a client a dead coyote, killed "because it was beautiful like you".

As he reminds his clients, doing nothing is often the best option. "If you tell someone 10 times that you don't want to talk to him, you are talking to him — nine times more than you wanted to."

It may be impossible to follow all the de Becker lessons and still go out to a 24-hour store to buy your papers, as Versace did, let alone to become a figurehead and friend throughout Miami's gay milieu. But in the wake of his murder, the de Becker lessons are likely to get more disciples.



Celebrity targets: John Lennon with Yoko; Jodie Foster, subject of a gunman's obsession, and below, Brooke Shields, advised by Gavin de Becker



Doubts on future of house that Gianni built

FROM JON PHILLIPS IN ROME

AS Italians mourned the shooting of Gianni Versace yesterday, commentators questioned whether his siblings, Donatella and Santo, will be able to maintain the empire's money-making capacity without its creativity.

Newspapers such as *La Repubblica* paid tribute to Versace for tying a small family firm from his native Calabria in the impoverished South into an international group with an estimated turnover last year of £700 billion (£1 billion). "Gianni Versace SpA is a company typical of Italian family capitalism," the daily said. "Versace's development was dizzy, irreverent and even disorganized: its brand was used on perfume, furnishing, carpets and porcelain."

His family did not immediately disclose whether he had made a will. But a financial daily *Il Sole 24* reported that, whatever the provisions, the firm would remain under family control: Gianni had a 45 per cent holding in the main company, while his brother, Santo, had 3 per cent while his sister, Donatella, had 20 per cent.

However, financial experts said Versace's debt might delay plans by Intu, the financial wizard of the trio, to float the company. It aimed to double the group consolidated turnover by the end of the millennium.

The group is the second largest Italian fashion exporter after Giorgio Armani, with 80 per cent of the £60 turnover coming from overseas markets.

Il Sole 24 said Donatella was the "natural heir" of Gianni, in that she is an established designer in her own right, through the Versace subsidiary company *Versus*, that markets her distinctive designs. Donatella "showed a good deal of talent", said the Milan business daily, adding that she had overseen redesigning the company when Gianni was incapacitated by a mysterious illness variously reported to be a tumour or AIDS.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

VERSACE KILLING 13

Just in time

Gigolo serial killer's descent into darkness

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

STUNNED by the killing of Gianni Versace, America is asking itself one question: how could Andrew Phillip Cunanan, the well-bred son of a wealthy stockbroker and a Roman Catholic mother, have grown into a serial murderer now on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list?

As a boy, Cunanan wanted for nothing. He lived in a loving, supportive home, went to the best school in town, and was given a sports car on his sixteenth birthday.

Yet the 28-year-old Cunanan, who went on to become a homosexual gigolo, is now accused of four murders beside Versace's, all between April 29 and May 9.

The first was Jeffrey Trail, 28, a former lieutenant in the US Navy. He was found murdered in a Minneapolis townhouse, his bloody body wrapped tightly in a rug. His head had been bashed in with a claw-hammer. Trail is thought to have been one of Cunanan's many lovers, as was the man in whose house the body was found.

He was an architect named David Madson, 33. Five days after Trail's murder, Madson's body was found in a derelict farmhouse, his body riddled with bullets. In the days before the murder, friends report that Cunanan gave Madson a gold Cartier watch. This gesture, they say, was typical of the suspected killer.

Cunanan next stole Madson's Jeep and drove to Chicago. There, on May 4, he is believed to have claimed his next victim, a 72-year-old property tycoon named Lee Miglin. He was found in his own garage, his throat cut with a saw, his chest punctured with pruning shears and his head bound tightly



The four other men believed to have been killed this year by Andrew Cunanan, clockwise from top left, Jeffrey Trail, David Madson, William Reese and Lee Miglin

in masking tape. In what was becoming a pattern of ghoulish car swaps, the Jeep was abandoned and exchanged for Miglin's expensive Lexus car. Cunanan drove several hundred miles east, to New Jersey. There, at the Finn's Point National Cemetery in Salem County, he is believed to have picked his next victim at random.

William Reese, 45, the cemetery's unremarkable—and hetero-

sexual—caretaker, was found shot in the head. His body had been tossed into a shallow grave. Cunanan abandoned the Lexus here and took Reese's red pickup. This is the vehicle police that was found near the scene of Versace's murder.

Cunanan's descent into darkness is both remarkable and disturbing. He was born into an affluent home in San Diego,

California; his Eurasian father was a former naval officer who turned to stockbroking. His mother was deeply religious and took young Cunanan to Mass.

At school he flaunted his homosexuality, often boasting to his classmates that he was "being kept" by a number of wealthy "sugar daddies". He was popular, and in his graduation year was voted the boy "least likely to be forgotten".

Chillingly, the caption Cunanan chose for his school yearbook picture was *après moi, le déluge* —after me, disaster.

Disaster struck Cunanan in 1988, when his father fled to the Philippines with every last cent in the family's bank account. This was the turning point in his life. The sudden impoverishment of his lifestyle led him, still only 19, to seek work as a male prostitute.

He was very successful. He made an attractive companion for older California homosexuals. An acquaintance has described him as clever, quick-witted and polyglot, "not your average buffed male hunk on the make".

Unsurprisingly, he appears to have earned the disapproval of his religious mother, who left California shortly afterwards to eke out a modest existence in Illinois. She has not seen her son for years.

FBI investigators believe that he might have contracted AIDS and that a combination of panic, anger and resentment may have driven him to "avenge himself" on other gay men. Days before Trail's murder in April, he told friends he was going to Minneapolis to "settle some business". He invited a select few to a fast, lavish supper — for which he paid — and left the same night on a flight out of Los Angeles.



Andrew Phillip Cunanan, suspected of a cross-country killing spree culminating in the Versace murder

Fear strikes gay bars after 'Renaissance prince of South Beach' is slain

FROM TOM RHODES
IN SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI

THE fear was tangible in the gay bars of South Beach. Bodybuilders at doors, muted music and anxious faces provided the most telling signs of how the murder of Gianni Versace has already affected the American Riviera he helped to inspire.

At Twist, a gay nightclub frequented by the Italian fashion designer, there was a sense of gloom and concern that Andrew

Cunanan, the alleged killer, could strike again. FBI photographs of the serial murderer were passed silently around the bar as its patrons analysed them in disbelief. "He looks very attractive. It's very frightening for us," said Scott Wilson, 36, a former model. "The gay party scene down here is very drug oriented. People out in clubs or getting high are apt to do things they would never consider if they were sober. We are an easy target for this guy."

Versace's murder on the steps of

his Italianate palazzo the previous day has cast the deepest shadow over this community, a gay enclave in the United States rivalled only by the Castro district of San Francisco. His high fashion, glamourous and exuberant taste had inspired hordes of young men to leave the dull plains of the Midwest and the metropolitan districts of the East Coast for the new bohemia of southern Florida.

He had been one of the pioneers

who helped to create an international hotspot from the once dilapidated Deco District. "He was like our President, almost a god," said Mark Brye, 31. "The man held the Beach together."

At The Casa Casuarina, the

mansion in front of which Versace was shot dead, he would host cosy dinners for the celebrity elite, from Madonna to Sylvester Stallone. Visiting kings and queens of fashion and Hollywood would never escape his attention or that of Antonio D'Amico, his long-time companion and personal trainer. Versace had turned the white-

washed citadel into a memorial to Miami's elegance in the Thirties. Employing an architect from Washington and designers from Italy, he bought and renovated the building in 1992. He spent \$3.7 million (£2.2 million) alone razing a neighbouring hotel to make way for the Italian garden and frescoed swimming pool. For his fidelity to the Italian Gothic and Classical Renaissance, Versace had won a preservation award from the board of the Florida Trust. It was, he once said, the only place he

could relax and feel safe, an irony not lost on the hundreds who held vigil outside the property yesterday.

Flowers, candles and simple messages of love had been delivered throughout the night. Beautiful bronzed women held hands with gay men in tearful tribute to a man they regarded as the Renaissance prince of South Beach. He would regularly walk along down Ocean Drive, stopping at the News Café to buy newspapers and magazines and perhaps an orange

juice. On the day he died, Versace had taken his regular stroll and, stopping at the café, had spent \$15 on a typically wide selection of magazines, ranging from *Vogue* and *People* to *The New Yorker* and *Business Week*. He used to say he enjoyed reading Proust and Dostoevsky, the author of the favourite Versace epiphany: "Beauty will save the world."

Ron McLean, the café's manager, said Versace "epitomised everything that people love about the Beach".

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Koreans exchange border fire

Troops cross truce line as North reaches flashpoint

By TIM HAMES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN the worst incident of its kind in many years, North Korean troops yesterday penetrated the military demarcation line with South Korea that has marked the border since the end of the Korean War 44 years ago.

North Koreans also fired artillery shells at a Southern guard post.

The two Koreas accused each other of provocation on the heavily fortified border, the world's last Cold War flashpoint. Pyongyang said several North Korean soldiers were wounded. About 37,000 American troops are stationed in the South but no US forces were involved.

Pyongyang said North Korean soldiers were carrying out normal reconnaissance when South Korean troops opened fire. "From this attack, several soldiers were injured and several guard posts were destroyed," it added.

Western analysts would like to hope that this was an isolated incident. However, there is a significant chance that optimism will prove misplaced. North Korea is in a state of terminal decline. Any assessment of the world's most secretive society must be tentative, but the signs are that it will prove impossible to maintain the status quo.

Seoul accused the North of heightening border tensions with serious provocations. "We strongly warn that we will never tolerate any provocation," Lieutenant-General Joung Young Moo said.

General Joung said the incident began when seven Northern soldiers crossed the military demarcation line that runs through the middle of the

2½-mile-wide demilitarised zone. Southern troops fired shots in the air after broadcasting warning messages by loudspeaker. North Korean forces responded with about 80 rounds of riflefire at two guard posts, which returned a similar burst of fire.

Yeo Sook Dong, chief spokesman for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that North Korean forces then fired ten artillery rounds that landed near a Southern guard post.

South Korean troops responded with one round from a recoilless rifle.

Two years of floods have destroyed a North Korean agricultural sector that was already extremely weak. Signs of advanced malnutrition have been witnessed and official rations have fallen to 100 grams (less than four ounces) of food per day.

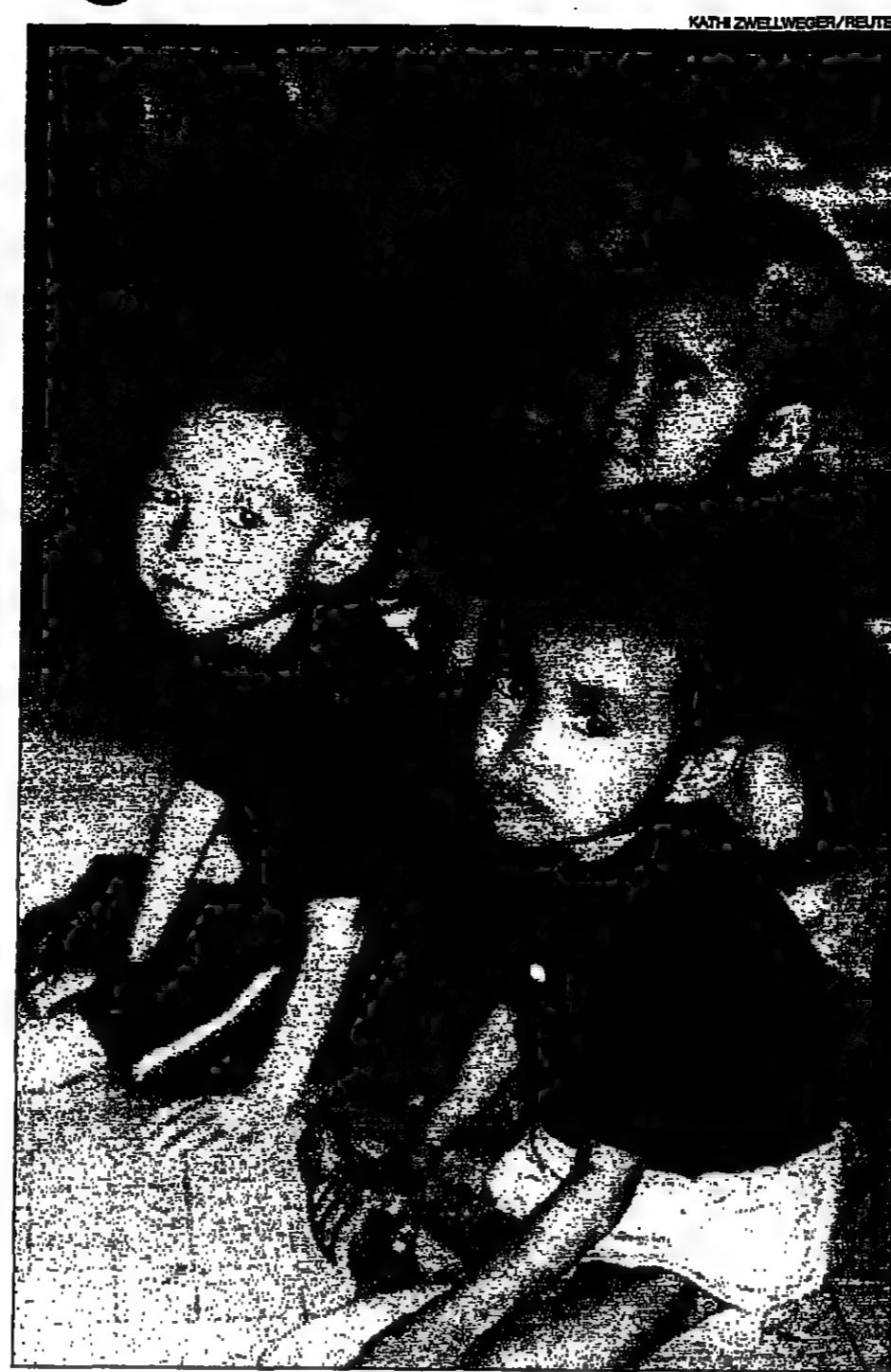
Conditions are thought to be worse in the mountainous northern provinces. Grass and bark have become part of the national diet. Starvation

is believed to be the North could hope to win any serious military encounter, although sheer force of numbers might allow it an initial advantage.

Collapses would appear the most likely scenario. North Korea's leadership has probably made the same calculation. Its best chance lies in postponing that moment. A programme of escalating bellicosity, stopping just short of war, might seem the best means of extracting concessions — food and aid — from the outside world.



Kim Il Sung: struggle for succession goes on



North Korean children suffering from malnutrition at a nursery in the town of Huichon. Of the 80 children aged between one and five, 20 are orphans

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kazakh crew flew 'too low'

Delhi: An investigation into the world's worst mid-air disaster, in which 349 people were killed, has blamed the crew of a Kazakh airliner for the collision. The Press Trust of India, quoting official sources, said the inquiry led by a senior judge concluded that the Kazakh Ilyushin 6 "was not at its assigned level of 15,000ft and came down to the flight level of 14,000ft" resulting in the crash with a Saudi Boeing 747 on November 12 near Delhi. (AFP)

Hun Sen's man

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, Cambodian Second Prime Minister, tried to legitimise his ousting of Prince Ranariddh, First Prime Minister, by putting Ung Huot, Foreign Minister, in his post. (AP)

Lethal injection

Shanghai: Two Chinese criminals have been executed by lethal injection, the first time China has used the method as an alternative to the firing squad, the *Xinhua Evening News* reported. (Keuter)

Moi for talks

Nairobi: President Moi of Kenya will meet opposition leaders seeking reforms next week. Campaigners said the talks were not enough to abandon plans to put pressure on the President. (Reuters)

Turtle dilemma

Munich: Bavaria is looking for homes for 1,300 eight-inch American turtles seized from traffickers. They cannot be released as Europe is not their natural habitat. The US has refused to take them. (AFP)

Novelist attacks toleration of racism

FROM DEBORAH COLLIOTT
IN FRANKFURT

GÜNTHER GRASS, the German author, has accused police and prosecutors in the northern town of Lübeck of failing in their duty to find the perpetrators behind a series of neo-Nazi attacks on churches in the area.

In an interview in today's *Die Woche* newspaper, he accuses Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, of encouraging racism by refusing to reform either the asylum laws or ancient citizenship rules for children born to foreigners.

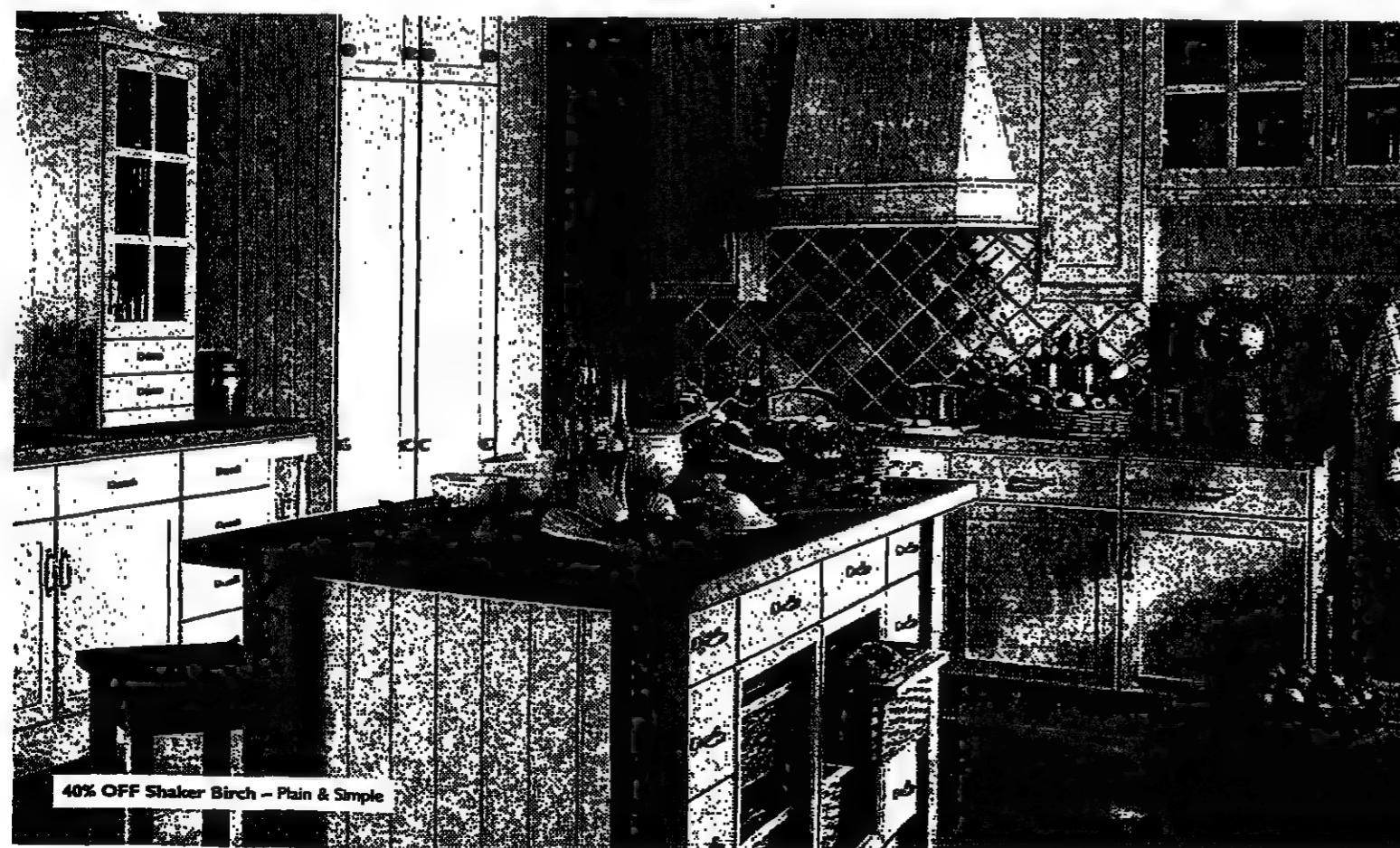
Herr Grass, who lives in Lübeck, said by continually introducing new conditions for deporting asylum seekers, Herr Kanther had "set the guideline for what had happened in towns like Lübeck", where over the past month churches and rectories have been attacked.

Investigators conclude that they were all racially motivated. Herr Grass, 70, whose office was recently defaced with swastikas, described police attempts to track down those behind the xenophobic attacks as "disgraceful".



Grass: office has been defaced by swastikas

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Rameses the Great finds refuge from dirty Cairo

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

PHARAOH Rameses II is going home. After years of being battered by the fumes of Cairo, the landmark 60-tonne rose granite statue of the great warrior-king is to be returned to its original base in the tranquil village of Mit Rahina, site of the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis.

The decision was announced by Farouk Hosni, the Culture Minister, after years of heated debate about where the 30ft colossus should be transported to escape the damaging surroundings outside Cairo's central railway station, where it was transported in 1954 on the orders of

President Nasser. The imposing statue had stood in front of a temple for more than 3,000 years before Nasser, who had overthrown the monarchy, ordered its relocation as a symbol of ancient Egyptian power.

Mr Hosni announced yesterday that within three months, the torso — already cracked from pollution and humidity — will be returned, encased in a metal frame to avoid damage during transport. For years the Government has dithered about choosing a new site with officials joking that suggestions about a location were as

numerous as the Pharaoh's wives, said to have totalled 66. One Egyptologist proposed putting the statue on an island in the Nile, and a journalist wanted to put it by the Giza pyramids.

Rameses II, also known as Rameses the Great, ruled Egypt for 66 years, ending in 1224 BC and brought the country great power and wealth. He erected more buildings and colossal statues than any other Pharaoh.

At Mit Rahina, Rameses will find a quiet village at the edge of the desert rimmed with date palms and swaying grass.

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Jospin retaliates for Bastille Day attack by Chirac

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A BARELY civil war of words broke out yesterday between the two most powerful men in France, when Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, sternly reminded President Chirac to stick to his constitutional role and the head of state, equally sharply, told M Jospin that he would continue to express his views at will.

M Jospin's veiled warning came after strong criticisms of the Socialist Government's policies made by the President in his Bastille Day television interview this week.

"Following the statements of the President on July 14, the Prime Minister recited in Cabinet the prerogatives which constitutionally are those of the President and Prime Minister," M Jospin's spokesman said, in reaction to M Chirac's statement that he had "a pre-eminent role, the last word" in politics.

In his Bastille Day address,

described as "an ambush", a "demolition job" and "a bomb" by the press, M Chirac attacked a range of Socialist policies on issues ranging from privatisation to immigration to taxes. His remarks evoked glee among the Centre-Right and fury on the Left, with charges that the President was acting as a "de facto" leader of the Opposition.

Nicolas Sarkozy, spokesman for the Gaullist RPR party, replied yesterday that, if the President was showing his true political colours, he was only acting in the tradition of the late President Mitterrand during two earlier periods of power-sharing.

The new Prime Minister "would do well to remember the behaviour on a good many occasions of François Mitterrand, who never hesitated to show that a Socialist he was, and a Socialist he remained."



The bus lies on its side after the crash on a hillside near Barcelona. Two tourists and the driver were badly hurt

French deny rift with US over more Serb raids

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A TRANSATLANTIC squabble blew up yesterday over a report that France had objected to Nato plans for a second raid to round up accused-war criminals in Bosnia as too risky.

The French Government insisted there was no basis for the report on the front page of *The New York Times* that France had declined to take part in the proposed operation.

In Washington, Clinton Administration officials did not directly rebut the report, saying they could not comment on possible future operations. They did say there was no rift with the French.

According to the report, America has been pressing Nato allies to arrest prominent Bosnian Serbs charged with war crimes, many of whom live near Pale, the Bosnian Serb capital, an area patrolled by an international force under the command of French officers.

The newspaper quoted senior American officials as saying the continued freedom of Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb President, and Ratko Mladic, former military commander, under-

mined efforts to build a durable peace. The sources declined to say if the pair were targets of the proposed operation.

According to American and French officials, Paris was not opposed to the arrest of prominent Bosnian Serbs wanted for war crimes, but felt the plan was too risky. American officials believed the French decision might not be final, as they have "gone back and forth" about future operations in their sector, the newspaper said.

There is validity to the argument that a follow-up raid "would be hazardous, given that the capture of one accused war criminal by British troops and the killing of another had tipped Nato's hand, presumably prompting Bosnian Serbs to reinforce security."

Yesterday's rift, caused apparently by American officials portraying the French as balking at another raid, comes when Franco-American relations are already rather strained. Disagreements surfaced at the Denver summit and in Madrid, where France wanted Romania admitted to Nato but Mr Clinton refused.

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Britons
injured in
Spanish
bus crash

FROM GILES TREMLETT
IN MADRID

TWENTY-SIX British tourists were injured yesterday when their bus overturned on a tight bend on mountains above Barcelona.

Police said that two of the Britons were seriously hurt — one suffered head wounds, the other a broken collar bone. The driver was also badly hurt.

Several children and elderly people were among those injured. The tour group was on its way to see a castle and the stadium where the 1992 Olympics were held.

The remaining 20 passengers were taken back to the cruise liner *Sapphire* in which they had travelled to Barcelona.

■ ETA crackdown: Supporters of the Basque separatist group ETA will be forbidden from shouting "Viva ETA" and painting slogans under proposed laws to penalise those who defend terrorism or take part in violent protests. The move follows the murder of Miguel Angel Blanco.

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BUDGENS QUALITY CORNER



Dr Thomas Stuttaford on research into a skin disease; a heart warning; creaky knees; a baby bonus; and an old remedy

The pain and shame of psoriasis

Psoriasis, the skin disease in which new skin is created ten times faster in some areas of the body than is usual, results in raised, dry, red and scaly patches.

It affects 2 per cent of the population and has a tendency to form at points where there is constant friction or minor trauma, such as on the elbows, knees, the front of the legs and on the scalp. Psoriasis is also a nuisance where clothing is tight and the skin is tender, such as beneath the belt around the navel and in the genital and peri-anal area.

When psoriasis attacks the fingernails, the condition is all too obvious as the nails become thickened, pitted and raised from their beds. One in ten patients with the disease develops a form of arthritis similar to rheumatoid arthritis, and for these people psoriasis is not only a cosmetic problem, but one that causes pain and disability.

From biblical times until after the Middle Ages, doctors did not distinguish between psoriasis and the skin manifestations of leprosy. Sufferers were then treated like lepers, the public was warned of their impending presence, and they had to take Communion separately, discreetly hidden away at the side of the chancel so that their blotchy, scaly faces and hands could be kept out of sight of the healthy congregation.

When the disease became too widespread, patients with psoriasis were incarcerated in hospitals for lepers.

However enlightened most people are nowadays about disfigurement, a minority is still repelled by any skin disease, particularly if it affects the face, and patients with psoriasis

become acutely conscious of their appearance. Not surprisingly, this self-consciousness affects their sex lives. Research from the University of Western Ontario, recently published in the *International Journal of Dermatology*, found that more than 40 per cent of patients with psoriasis said that it affected their libido, particularly those whose patches were widespread, affected the groin, or where the disease was complicated by arthritis.

Only one in four of the patients whose sex life was blighted said that this was the result of their partner's reaction to the disease.

Patients whose love life had suffered because of psoriasis were those who were also more likely to be depressed and to drink heavily. In these cases it was difficult to know whether the loss of libido was the result of the skin disease or whether it was a manifestation of the heavier drinking and change in mood.

Although the cause of psoriasis is unknown, other than that the disease is in part familial, it has been shown that it is worse if the patient drinks too much alcohol, is anxious or depressed. It is also worse in patients who take beta-blockers to treat their high blood pressure. All these factors may not have been taken fully into account in the survey.

Psoriasis is improved by exposure to sunlight or by a change of mood. The effect of both of these factors provides a possible, logical explanation for some of the miraculous cures of leprosy which have followed a pilgrimage. The combination of exposure to sun while walking to a shrine, coupled with the sense of relief derived from worshipping, whether at Walsingham or Lourdes, in those

who have previously been tormented by their anxieties could well have accounted for the occasional miracle cure.

Psoriasis may not be curable by traditional means but it can be treated, and this treatment is constantly improving.

Newer preparations such as Dovonex, Calcipotriol and Curatoderm calcitriol are less staining than coal tar products or

Dithranol in Lassar's paste. Micanol, which should be applied only to tough skin, is less messy than Dithranol. Light treatment with narrow band UVB is a simpler procedure than the old-style PUVA regime.

Topical steroids may be needed in some cases, but the skin is likely to become resistant to them.

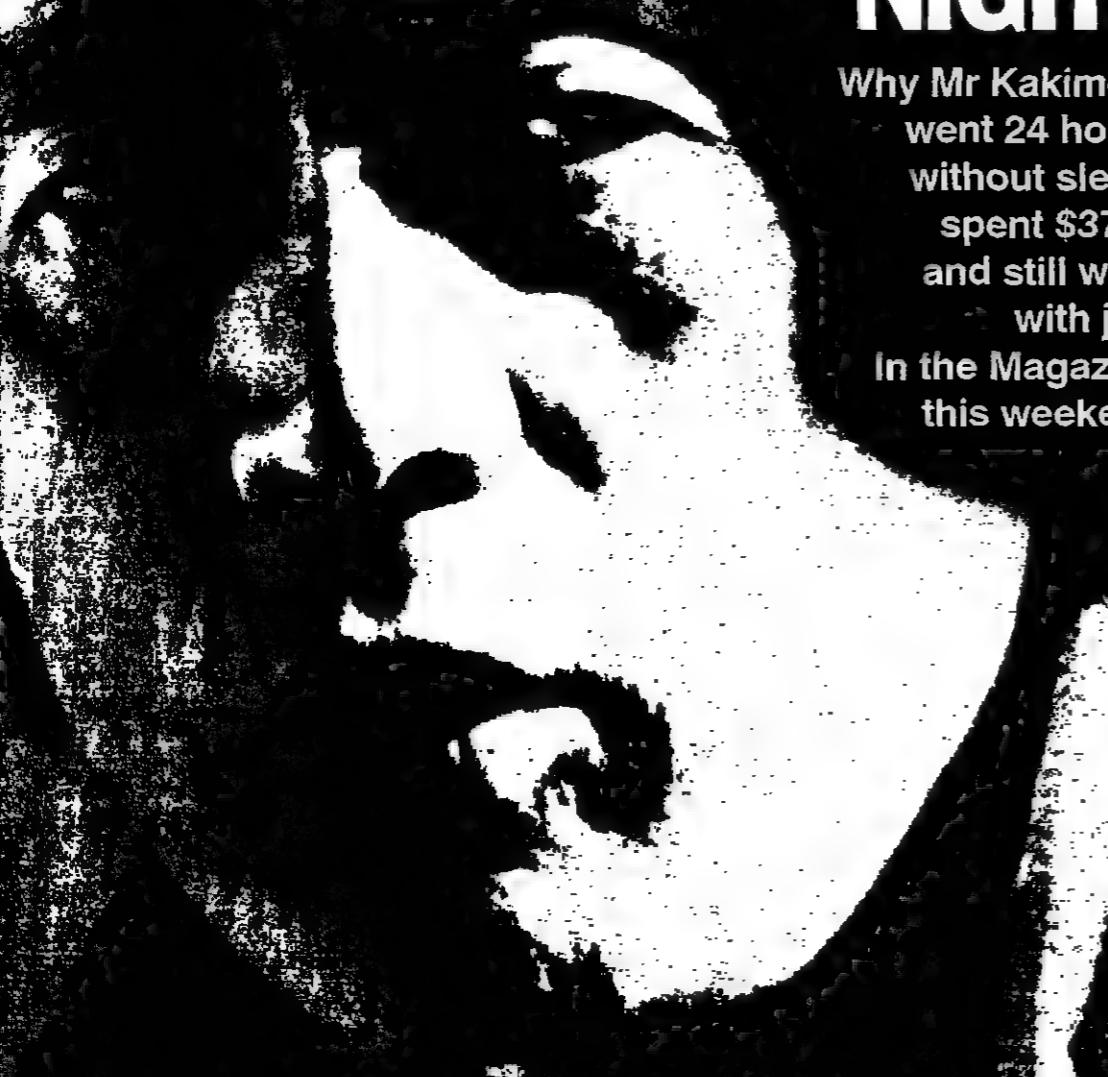
Dr Malcolm Rustin, a consultant dermatologist at the Royal Free

Hospital in London, which continues an active research programme into psoriasis, says: "The outlook for patients is constantly improving. New products are being developed which are not only more effective but more pleasant to use. Even so, we don't neglect old remedies and are just starting a clinical trial to determine the value of extracts of native British herbs in the treatment of psoriasis."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT

Why Mr Kakimoto went 24 hours without sleep, spent \$37m, and still wept with joy.
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The late playwright Dennis Potter, pictured with actress Gina Bellman, suffered from psoriasis

Why folic acid is good for the heart

Dinner party guests hoping to stave off their inevitable appointment with the grim reaper should not only beware of butter and rich sauces, but should also be eating their asparagus, broccoli and lentils, choosing liver rather than hamburgers and, so long as they are dining later in the day, drinking large quantities of orange or other fruit juice.

A preoccupation with the level of cholesterol is no longer enough, for homocysteine is every bit as important a factor in the battle to defeat heart attacks and other cardio-vascular diseases. It has taken 20 years for doctors, and the general public, to become convinced of the importance of maintaining a low blood cholesterol level in patients at risk of heart disease.

One reason why there have been so many sceptics is that statistics show that high levels of cholesterol only account for a comparatively small proportion, about 20 per cent, of heart attacks or other vascular disasters. One of the important influences on the cardio-vascular system which is now being thoroughly investigated is the level of homocysteine. The higher the level of this amino acid, the greater the chance of disaster.

As increased folate levels reduce homocysteine an obvious answer would seem to fortify common foods with folic acid. Already many breakfast cereals are enriched with the vitamin, and market research has shown that these are bought by more than 70 per cent of households. The next step, which has been firmly advocated in a leader in the *British Medical Journal*, written by Professor Nicholas Wald of St Bartholomew's Hospital and the Royal London Hospital, is for flour also to be supplemented with folic acid. Government approval for this is awaited.

The higher the level, the greater the chance of disaster

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A habit that was painful

SCIENTISTS have been studying the skeletons of monks that have lain beneath the crypt of St Stephen's monastery in Jerusalem for the past 1,500 years. The *British Medical Journal* reports that the skeletons showed that most of the monks had suffered from osteoarthritis of the knee joints during their lives.

The *BMJ* suggests that this osteoarthritis was probably the result of constant kneeling at prayers; presumably a condition akin to the arthritis suffered by modern electricians who develop it when they are working in cramped conditions while installing wiring.

Other possibilities would be that the hard work in the fields and monasteries gardens was too much for the monks' knees. A less charitable thought is that

they might have been overfed in the refectory. Knees are seven times more likely than hips to be affected by obesity.

Whatever the cause, the monks had to suffer the pain without any efficient anti-inflammatory drugs. This pain may have made them miserable, but the absence of the drugs meant that they were spared the hazard of peptic ulceration or haemorrhage.

Both conditions, the most worrying of the side-effects of this invaluable group of drugs, are less likely if either Arthrocare, which contains the gastro-intestinal protective Misoprostol, or Mobic, which works in a slightly different way, are prescribed. Though more expensive, the difference in safety is striking and makes the cost worthwhile.



Constant kneeling can lead to osteoarthritis

Twins can provide cancer protection

twins. A new sac had to be fashioned for one of the babies.

The mother now has two consolations. She has the pleasure of the company of pair of healthy babies, as well as the reassurance that having twins means that she is one-third less likely to develop

cancer of the breast than other mothers. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund recently reported in the *British Journal of Cancer* that a study of 4,800 Swedish women showed that mothers of twins had an increased resistance to this tumour.

Researchers from the Fund are now trying to isolate the factors involved in twin births which provide this protection, and also to find out whether the immunity is present equally in fraternal or identical births.

A foul-tasting memory

ADISTINGUISHED doctor who is now recovering from prostate surgery was amazed when the nursing staff not only lacked a mixture of potassium citrate in the ward cupboard to alleviate his pain on urinating, but had never heard of it. Thirty years ago, the standard treatment of mild cystitis was to render the urine alkaline with regular doses of this foul-tasting mixture, which could just about be tolerated if it was combined with concentrated orange juice. In those days, ready-prepared Miss Pot Crt was held in every ward in huge bottles ready for dispensing by the nursing staff. Now a course of antibiotics is prescribed.

The most recent antibiotic regime to be introduced for the treatment of simple cystitis is Ciprofloxacin, a small 100mg tablet taken twice a day for three days. This dose is usual-

ly enough to treat simple cystitis, commonly the result of infection with *E. coli*, so that the patient's comfort is restored, and the invading bacteria eliminated.

It is essential that a specimen of urine is sent for culture in the laboratory at the start of treatment so that if the infection does not clear, the sensitivity of any organism is known, and other tests to exclude a chlamydial or gonococcal urethritis, sexually transmitted diseases, may be undertaken.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

FEATURES 17

There are rules to decoration and they do not include Christmas trees or coloured candles. But if you live in the suburbs, flying ducks are fine, says the designer David Hicks

Taboos haven't changed. Nancy Mitford in her essay written 40 years ago on U and Non-U was simply bringing back 18th-century ideas of behaviour, banishing Victorian affectation. The same rules apply in decoration.

People might accuse me of breaking colour codes, but I have only been looking at the most traditional users of colour. I found shocking pink, purple and scarlet in the robes of the Roman Catholic Church. Violet seats and scarlet walls were the result of seeing scarlet lipstick worn with a violet silk dress. It may appear modern, but it is reimposing an older order.

Also, now that we mix old and new, the dictates of the time don't necessarily apply. My Louis XVI chairs are not covered in dainty woven silk but tweed. Obviously, Directoire chairs would not originally have had Thai silk on them, but does that matter? I have also started using violet leather on chairs instead of damask.

Indecision is at the root of most bad rooms. Rugs laid on carpet are irritating (they lack style) and they creep. Half-tiled rooms are a sign of weakness, as are variegated plants or two-tone cars. My job is to help people who can't decide.

Three ducks flying above the "mantelpiece" (rather than the chimneypiece) is fine, as are cocktail cabinets. If you live in suburbs, Drinks should always be on a marble- or stone-topped table. Cocktails, like so many other things, are a dreadful import from America. My father, born in 1863, never would have contemplated gin.

Framed reproductions of paintings are definitely taboo. One might just about get away with an Old Master drawing from a Christie's catalogue, properly line-mounted and framed.

WELL, excuse me. I imagined, when I scattered my silver photograph frames with careful artlessness around the sitting room of our flat in London, that I was decorating within the bounds of good taste. David Hicks, the interior designer, would disagree. Silver-framed photographs in the drawing room are taboo, he opines.

To the list of things he can't bear, he adds polished mahogany dining tables; they

Silver-framed photographs, even of the Royal Family, are taboo in a drawing-room, but gilded silver is OK. Gilt is all right for *objets de vertu*, but they must be small. Silver is for the dining room and nowhere else.

I can't bear polished mahogany dining tables. They must be covered. I like small patterns or white damask table cloths. Bare tables came in in the 1920s — and for me are quite Out.

Candles, whether real or electric, should be long. One would only see short candles towards the end of the evening. One should never see the source of light; candles should always be shaded, and never any colour but white.

I hate cyclamen in pots and Christmas trees are beyond the pale. If you have to have something, bring in a wonderful branch. Paint it and put lights on it, but never allow one of those awful needle-dropping trees in the house.

Bright blue swimming-pools are vulgar. I have a black one as it looks most natural. At night, when lit, it appears like a black opal. Don't have too much mown grass.

The nouveau riches love wrought iron. I hate it except all that Tijoux metalwork at Hampton Court and Chatsworth. Picture rails are totally taboo.

Men in the suburbs of remote places like Maastricht seem to have caught the habit of carrying handbags. I suppose it must seem terribly exciting to them.

Cars should be black, white or grey, or possibly very dark green. Cars ruin everything — architecture and country. The Duke of Wellington's resistance to trains looks very wise in retrospect.

Goodbye! Englishmen don't shake hands.

• This article first appeared in *Antique Interiors International*



Decoration taboos

Three ducks flying above the mantelpiece is fine — if you live in suburbia

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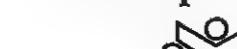
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A day for Scotland's bravehearts

Magnus Linklater on the birth pangs of an Edinburgh parliament

If the headlines are to be believed, this morning's Cabinet committee to approve the final proposals for a Scottish parliament is the place to be. Lurid accounts of its meetings in recent weeks have told of seething rows, last-ditch barters, and bitter animosity between ministers. The "bravehearts", led by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, have apparently fought off vicious attacks from the "English nationalists", headed by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, Jack Cunningham, Frank Dobson and others have sought and won major concessions on the powers to be retained by Westminster. Frequently, it is said, Mr Dewar has slunk back to the Scottish Office after a long day of furious debate, his face gaunt and drained.

Since that is how Mr Dewar normally looks, I am not quite sure how the reporters were able to tell. But I have no doubt that there has been friction — this, after all, is perhaps the most significant constitutional change in Britain since 1832, and next week's White Paper will reveal far-reaching plans which have lurked far too long behind anodyne statements of vague intent. Even Mr Dewar admits it will be

"controversial". It is not surprising, therefore, that the press has detected evidence of ministerial turbulence.

What has been unexpected is the hostility and even contempt directed against Labour's plans by newspapers that might have been expected to welcome them. *The Scotsman*, whose long history of support for devolution should by rights have placed it among the cheerleaders, has been virulent in opposing what it describes as "deeply flawed" proposals. "A bastard child of constitutional compromise" was the phrase used by one of its columnists recently.

You do not, however, need to be blind to the problems ahead to adopt a more constructive approach. The key areas of contention remain what they have always been: tax, the ultimate sovereignty of Westminster, and the West Lothian question. Any one of these could, of course, be enough to scupper plans for a proper rather than a pretend parliament. Too much tax and you introduce a fiscal imbalance between England and Scotland which leads to instability. Too great a legislative remit and you undermine Westminster's ultimate authority and thus the Union itself. Too many MPs denied the right to vote on Scottish matters, and you promote an English nationalist backlash. On the other hand, it is possible to go too far the other way in limiting the powers of a Scottish parliament, ending up with the "pygmy parliament" that Michael Forsyth used to deride as Secretary of State. It would be hard to imagine anything more calculated to play into the hands of the nationalists.

The alternative, and the one I expect the White Paper to

All the key areas of contention remain as they were

And the West Lothian question? My bet is that it will simply be bypassed. The number of Scottish MPs at Westminster will be left intact; their powers over local constituency matters inevitably diminished, as will those of English MPs on Scottish issues. Sooner or later, I suspect, this situation will become untenable, and the numbers of MPs from Scotland will be reduced, or their voting powers limited. But I believe that it will be tackled in the pragmatic way by which the British constitution has always changed. No likely future Government will wish to destabilise a Scottish parliament provided it is working well.

If this new constitutional baby is to survive, it will require a large measure of goodwill, from opponents as well as faint-hearted supporters. It may not be the perfect creature that everyone wanted, but those who want to stifle it at birth should remember the fury this will cause among those who have waited so patiently for it to appear.

Finally — and I have always wanted to say "you read it here first" — it seems as if the home for the new Scottish parliament may indeed be a brand new building rather than the cramped premises in the Royal High School on Carlton Hill, as I predicted recently in these columns. Let us hope the result, when it is commissioned, is a truly imaginative building, a suitable home for what is meant to be a brave new institution.

Re-lease me

WANTED: Tory sympathiser with £3 million-plus to buy the freehold to Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square, London SW1, built in 1958 and home to the Tory party's headquarters since 1959, is being sold by Royal Sun Alliance, the recently merged insurance company which is tidying up its property investments.

The Tories bought the freehold to the building in 1981 from Westminster council for £1.325,000; then, in a piece of financial legerdemain, sold it in 1982 for £3.750,000 to a group

packed with Tory dignitaries called the Bourne Association, who promptly leased it back to the party for 25 years at a peppercorn rent.

Poly, and representing the worst of late-Eighties grey, pink and blue corporate design, it is prehistoric compared with the Labour Party's Star Trek-style Millbank headquarters. On the other hand, the lease on it has been useful collateral when party chairmen, most recently Brian Mawhinney, have had to take out bank loans to fund election campaigns.

Lord Harris of Peckham, the former Tory party treasurer, was known to hate the place, and regularly advocated a move to a proper, purpose-built office block.

William Hague's management consultants are likely to support him, particularly if the building is bought by someone unsympathetic to the Tories, say Mohamed Al Fayed. "It would be relief to get out," says one of those still working there. "It looks like a stale Battenberg cake and has all the atmosphere of an Ostend brothel."

After my note on Saturday concerning the ever-more parky figure of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, action seems to have been taken. Lunch with Cook at



Bishops buy a job lot

The Church of England's support for old-style state intervention is a sure route to economic damnation

On Tuesday the General Synod of the Church of England adopted an ecumenical report, *An Inquiry into Unemployment and the Future of Work*, which was presented by David Sheppard, who is shortly to retire as Bishop of Liverpool. He is a deservedly popular figure, has been an excellent bishop and is unquestionably a good man. The report represents views which are characteristic of the Roman Catholic hierarchy as much as of the Church of England. Much the same set of ideas was to be found in *Faith in the City*, a Church of England report published in 1985.

These ideas are not Marxist, but they are socialist. They were developed in the Roman Catholic Church of the late 19th century as a middle ground between Marxism and a then anti-clerical liberalism. In England they owe their origin to the Webbs, to the early Fabian Society and to the writings of William Temple, who was Archbishop of Canterbury in the early 1940s.

They hold that the State should take responsibility for major economic decisions in order to promote social welfare. Specifically, they recommend a full-employment policy based on high taxation to finance the creation of jobs. David Sheppard has a personal view that the State is now exaggerating the priority of education: the socialism of the Christian Churches has more often shared that high priority for education.

This is a substantial intellectual tradition, and it deserves to be criticised as such. It is, however, opposed to strong modern trends of economic thought, on the Left as well as on the Right. It is strange that in July 1997 the Church of England should formally adopt the economic philosophy of old Labour.

Finally — and I have always wanted to say "you read it here first" — it seems as if the home for the new Scottish parliament may indeed be a brand new building rather than the cramped premises in the Royal High School on Carlton Hill, as I predicted recently in these columns. Let us hope the result, when it is commissioned, is a truly imaginative building, a suitable home for what is meant to be a brave new institution.

Synod seems most closely to share. He believes that state intervention, the creation of jobs by the State, and the defence of jobs, even where that means accepting low productivity, are the best way to combat unemployment. So does David Sheppard: so does

For the Church of England to side is understandable in terms of the Catholic social tradition, but is harder to justify when one looks at the level of French interventionism. After a decade and a half of French socialist policies, one person in eight in France is out of work, a much worse record than the British.

It is not only the French example which suggests that socialism, even of the Fabian or Catholic kind, is not a successful way to raise the level of employment. In the 1990s there has been a worldwide pattern of economic success which has included low taxes, relatively high growth, low government expenditure and large job creation in the private sector. The countries which have conformed to this pattern have enjoyed low unemployment.

There has also been a contrasting pattern of high taxes, relatively low growth, high public expenditure and little job creation in the private sector. The countries which have conformed to this pattern have had high unemployment.

During the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher moved Britain from the second group towards the first. Tony Blair made the historic decision to accept this part of the Thatcherite revolution. The General Synod thinks that Britain ought to move back towards the second group. What is odd is that they do so in the name of reducing unemployment, when the semi-socialist group of nations has shown a strong tendency for unemployment to rise.

Because this is a Church matter, it is natural to assume that it is also a

moral issue. It is no such thing. It is an intellectual one. People like myself, who want Britain to move further towards the open-market, low-tax group of countries, do so because we believe that will increase job opportunities; that it will only create more jobs, but better ones.

I do not disagree with David Sheppard's objectives of improving job opportunities and reducing unemployment. I fully share them. I do quarrel with his belief that the State can perform that function better than private individuals and businesses. All the current evidence is that the

State does it much worse. What is wrong with the Church of England's policy on unemployment is that it would tend to increase unemployment, perhaps even to French levels.

That could just be an innocent error, but it is not altogether innocent. Bishops quite rightly criticise ignorant laymen who make theological pronouncements without having bothered to read any theology. Catholic bishops raise their eyebrows at journalists who think that the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the same as the doctrine of the Virgin Birth. Much innocent fun has been had from such theological blunders.

But the bishops and the synod have failed to confront the intellectual case for open market economic theory. They denounce monetarism without knowing what it is. They think that Maynard Keynes is a good economist, but few of them have read *The General Theory*; they mistakenly think that Adam Smith is an out-of-date economist, but hardly one of them has read *The Wealth of Nations*. Few of them have any idea that the Austrian school ever existed.

It is entirely understandable that bishops are too busy to have acquired the knowledge needed to reach a pass in A-level economics, but they should hesitate to adopt dogmatic positions

on technical questions of which most of them are almost entirely ignorant.

There is a danger in the parochialism of the Church of England's view.

The world is rapidly becoming a single economy, connected by individual personal communications via the internet. Socialism puts economic responsibility on the national government; it assumes that the individual economy is a free-standing unit which its national government can more or less control. The Church of England now calls on the British Government to make economic interventions which obviously depend on effective power. As the global economy erodes the power of the national governments, they will not be able to carry out such policies, even if they want to. To do so, in France, the attempt to maintain local autonomy may itself become whole industries non-competitive.

Already the world seems to be dividing between countries which understand the global economic change and those which are moving towards protection. France is now a more socialist economy than Russia; even the United States has a fair higher tax regime than China. The attempt to protect local economic advantages is almost certain to fail.

The popularity of French Socialism, on which Lionel Jospin won the French election six weeks ago, is this protectionism. The General Synod has taken the same protectionist view about jobs, and calls on the British Government to create and protect "decent jobs for all". That is not possible, but the attempt could be disastrous.

However well-intentioned, such a policy cannot protect it; it is building walls of sand against the ocean. It can, however, result in over-taxation and over-regulation which can make a whole society uncompetitive. The export of jobs from Germany and France is a warning of the harm socialist economic theory can do, when it reinforces the popular demand for protectionism. Perhaps fortunately, the General Synod has little influence on national policy. The danger is much greater in Europe. There, the same Christian social policies have shaped the thinking of whole political parties. Europe is falling behind in the competition of the global economy.

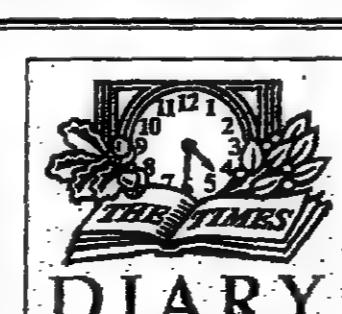
The urge to create is intricately entwined with the will to destroy. Revolution feeds on violence and ruin. Many of our most powerful artists did not do much develop and perfect the styles and techniques of their predecessors as shatter them. The new was built up on the wreckage of the past. Art became the sum of its own destruction.

The sodomy-asocialism of violent homosexual encounters is a manifestation of this instinct for destruction. But it is also concerned with the taunting play of a power, with the forces of manipulation and control. With good reason, Versace was reticent about his own sexual inclinations and practices, but in his work his imagery was flagrant. Exulting in the success of his 1993 collection, he jeered at critics and customers alike: "They said these clothes belonged only in a leather bar," he bragged. "And now, last night, there were 200 socialites in bondage."

Such power play is perilous. The shadow-side of homosexual experimentation seems far from "gay" — it is driven and daemonic. The fight ends in the kill. Francis Bacon's lover, George Dyer, consumed by jealousies and the sour depressions of drugs and drink, chose suicide as his means of revenge. On the opening night of Bacon's 1971 Paris retrospective, when adulating audiences lined the boulevards, he overdosed in his hotel room. Bacon's famous triptych depicting his lover's last hours show with mixed brutality and tenderness images of Dyer vomiting in a basin, sliding through shadows, and slumped on the lavatory pan as he finally passed away.

And so the fatal triangle of art, sex and death has claimed another victim. The ambitions of these destructive geniuses are symbolised by Christopher Marlowe's two great dramatic creations — Faustus, who sells his soul to the Devil, and Tamburlaine, who tries to conquer the world. Like Versace, Marlowe was mysteriously murdered: whether a contract killing, or a quarrel arising from a homosexual affair, it was a sordid death. Oscar Wilde liked to speak of "feasting with panthers". Panthers are not pussycats.

Versace and the panthers
Artists thrive on risk, says Rachel Campbell-Johnston



the Foreign Office now consists of sandwiches and warm water — not a glass of wine or beer in sight. Meanwhile, the food at the Foreign Secretary's official residence, Carlton Gardens, is at an all-time low. Recent visitors describe meals of Dickensian meanness: no sardines, boned lamb cutlets sliced as thin as the cucumber in a duchess's teatime sandwich, and peach halves with shaving-foam cream.

Oh, crumbs

STARKLY differing accounts are emerging on the subject of the Prime Minister's diet. When in London, it seems wild horses could not keep him out of its flashy metropolitan restaurants: Le Pont de la Tour with Clinton, the River Café with Lord Rogers of Riverside, Granita in Islington with Gordon Brown. Ask his Labour friends in the North of England and they tell

you that Blair cannot get enough of the stodge, a sort of Geordie ban. It fell to Ronnie Campbell, MP for Blyth Valley, to bring one to a gathering at No 10 this week of Labour MPs from the North East. "As soon as Campbell walked in Blair was demanding his stodge," says Stephen Hepburn, MP for Jarrold. "He eats one every night before bed." The tales of the PM's diet grew ever more improbable with the intervention of John Burton, Blair's constituency agent from Sedgfield. "Tony is certainly partial to a stodge, especially with his fish and chips when he comes

home." Presumably served up by Cherie slapping around in apron and silver mules.

• Still wallowing in his victory at the British Grand Prix on Sunday, Jacques Villeneuve, the racing driver, was smartly reminded of Britain's hard-won reputation as the jowling capital of Europe when his moped and helmet were stolen from the Northamptonshire countryside. Police recovered the moped in the hideous Preston Court Lumbertubs area of Northampton. Five youths have been arrested and released on bail charged with the theft. The helmet is still at large.

Dear John

LIKE just another designer swimsuit, the pop singer Elton John has been cast aside by his friend Diana, Princess of Wales. The two had grown close through their shared interests in fashion and AIDS charities. Close friends of John, however, say the pair have fallen out.

The spat originated in February when Diana withdrew her support from the Rock and Royalty AIDS benefit ball organised by John. She objected to a racy book of photographs put together by the wonderfashion designer Gianni Versace to accompany the ball. As a result, John called off the whole



Elton John: hurt not angry

show. While planning the ball, John is said to have suggested to Diana that she might care to auction off some of her dresses to raise money. When Diana followed up the suggestion, however, she publicly attributed it to her son Prince William, leaving one peeved John. "All could have been saved when John wrote to the Princess recently expressing his sorrow about the turn their relationship was taking. Instead of an olive branch, he received a stiff, formal letter advising him to send any further correspondence via the Buckingham Palace postroom. "Elton used to be a great admirer of Diana," said one close friend of the singer, "but now he just feels hurt."

P-H-S



Tory Central Office for sale

Versace
and the
panthers

Campbell-Johns

EASTWARD, LOOK

The beginning of open warfare over EU enlargement

The European Commission has christened its fat tome on managing the eastward enlargement of the European Union *Agenda 2000*. This overworked millennial imagery has rarely been less apposite. No one expects the European Union to admit new members by 2000, and the Commission's own deliberately vague target of around 2002 is unlikely to be met. With the partial exception of Britain and the Scandinavians, enlargement is not so much on the back burner as in most EU countries as clean out of the kitchen.

The retreat is most marked in Germany, once enlargement's continental champion. For all the warm words that Helmut Kohl lavished on Poland's Prime Minister this week between mouthfuls of pig-stomach, he was careful not to name the day; and in Austria last month Karl Lamers, his confidant and Christian Democrat spokesman, let slip 15 years as a probable timetable.

The main reason is not far to seek. The obsessive pursuit of economic and monetary union has warped what was once a clear political perception of the gains in security and economic dynamism to be had by embracing Europe's new democracies. The toll the EMU project has taken both on jobs and on trust between rulers and ruled has sapped the will of EU leaders to tackle the indispensable reforms of the EU's political structures, regional aids and calamitous common agricultural policy (CAP).

Creditably, the Commission has chosen to ignore the way the ground is heaving beneath its feet. That is no thanks to Jacques Santer, who in deference to Herr Kohl would have restricted the first wave to three of the ten European applicants — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. But Sir Leon Brittan and Hans van den Broek won the argument that Slovenia and Estonia were as well qualified and that to be credible, the Commission must stick to the "objective criteria" laid down in 1993.

Politically, that is the right decision now. But a caveat must be entered. The Copenhagen criteria require new members to take on board the entire shipload of EU regulations and to observe Maastricht's financial disciplines. Rigidly applied, this would impose on them economic, monetary and other restraints inappropriate to countries in rapid transition, stunting the growth which they need to catch up with the mature EU economies. Only if the EU is flexible about these

can the full economic as well as political potential of enlargement be tapped — and the costs of enlargement contained. But its bean-counting, unpopular politicians are in no mood to explain why the "unfair advantage" of low-wage competition from these countries would be good for Europe's future competitiveness and economic health.

Flexibility towards the East needs to be matched by radicalism at home, beginning with regional aids and agriculture, which between them swallow around 90 per cent of the EU budget. Unreformed, the costs of both would soar under enlargement. The Commission rightly wants to concentrate regional aid; it is absurd that 51 per cent of EU citizens now receive such benefits. But this will be so bitterly resisted, particularly by Spain, that if the issue is not to hold up enlargement indefinitely the wisest tactic for the applicants might be to say that they were content to do without such subsidies.

Even without enlargement, the CAP has become indefensible. It benefits most rich farmers who least need help. Of this Brussels is now persuaded. The trouble is that most of them are in France and Germany, which together pocket 40 per cent of all CAP payments. Their farm lobbies are denouncing *Agenda 2000* as an "aggression". In fact, the Commission's proposals, building on the 1992 reforms, are a brave further move in the right direction of weaning farmers off price supports, compensating with direct income supplements. But in terms of the Commission's ultimate aim, a policy that safeguards not just individual farms but the improved health of the broader rural economy, Robin Cook was right yesterday to call for "a still more radical strategy".

His valour in the coming battle will be tested soon enough, as will his optimistic assertion that the EU is at last "moving away from introspection about our institutions". The serious bargaining will start in January, when Britain sits in the EU chair. Speedy enlargement will be the cardinal measure of Tony Blair's claims about Britain's "leadership" in Europe. Can he break the logjams? Can he raise people's eyes to the really important horizon? Can he rescue the interests of the Central Europeans from the long grass into which they have been kicked? This Government's honourable place in history will be secure if he succeeds; but Messrs Blair and Cook will have their work cut out.

DOBSON'S CHOICE

Labour elevates dubious equality over proven excellence

The Government's bearded Bourbon yesterday tried simultaneously to wrench the stock back to an imagined Utopia and suspend the laws of supply and demand. Frank Dobson's decision to end GPs' "queue-jumping" in the name of fairness may win easy populist cheers but it serves patients and the health service ill. The Secretary of State has a keen awareness of the dangers to the NHS of bureaucracy, which is why his decision to cripple the Tory reform which did most for efficiency is all the more regrettable.

Mr Dobson invokes in his defence the shade of Aneurin Bevan. The NHS, he argues, was established to provide care on the basis of proven need, not ability to pay. It is an admirable sentiment, but it sits on Mr Dobson's lips like the Lord's Prayer on a child's, revered but barely understood. The ability of GP fundholders to secure better treatment for their patients is nothing to do with fat cats elbowing to the front of the queue, rather it gives GPs and their patients the whiplash over consultants and managers who previously ran the health service for their convenience. Fundholding has seen the many, the patients, empowered at the expense of the few, the professionals.

The "queue-jumping" which so exercises Mr Dobson was closer to queue-shrinking. By giving doctors the power to take their custom elsewhere hospitals were forced to smarten up their acts and cut waiting times. GPs did not need to exercise the power, and not all GPs needed to have it, for the threat to

work. As Professor Rudolf Klein has pointed out in *The New Politics of the NHS*, the prospect of losing some patients has spurred all consultants to adopt new guidelines and protocols which define quality care, improving standards for all.

This can be caricatured as a "two-tier" system but the NHS has never been able to guarantee absolute equity. It has always been easier to secure, say, a hip transplant in Harrogate than in Hamilton. What fundholding does is to use competition to drive down waiting times across the board. Some may wait longer than others but everyone will, ultimately, be better off than before. Professor Howard Glenister, in his book *Implementing Fundholding: Wild Card or Winning Hand?* demolished the arguments for abolishing fundholding because it created a "two-tier" service. The Labour-supporting academic concluded that, "to argue for the abolition of fundholding on this ground is perverse. It is akin to the philosophical paradox that equality in human needs can best be achieved by starving everyone."

The collectivisation of GP practices into commissioning groups will, at least, still allow the providers of primary care a stronger voice than they had before 1991, but the most effective weapon GPs could wield on behalf of their patients has been decommissioned. Doctors are taught that direct surgical intervention should be resisted whenever possible; it is a pity that Mr Dobson ignores best clinical practice.

JUNK FICTION?

Finding out what one wants to read is a step in growing up

The Booker Prize of the playground has been awarded to a novel about teenage drug-addicts. *Junk*, by Melvin Burgess, has won the Library Association's Carnegie Medal. This tells the story of self-deluding teenagers who think that they can handle heroin but find that it has them in its frightening grip. Its principal characters are on a downward escalator through squatting, theft, drug-addiction, prostitution and pregnancy.

According to the judges, *Junk* is an extraordinary, ground-breaking book. But *May Poppins* it ain't. And already there have been ritual cries of outrage from the media (not all from the headless chicken end of the street) about the bleakness of the topics in the Carnegie shortlist. Besides drugs, these include arson, bullying and the death of a child on an operating table. It is the prerogative of the older generation down the ages to fret about what its young are reading.

But fairy stories are not sweetness and light. They have room for ogres, witches, cannibalism and serial killers. The Grimm brothers collected horrifying folktales. *Jack the Giant-Killer* and *Morte D'Arthur* include butchery and serial adultery. And in the first story in English, Grendel's mother is an unsuitable role model. Freud and Jung

could discover dark roots in the sunniest wonderlands. The imaginative shudder is as important a part of growing through reading as the peculiarly English coo over animal anthropomorphism. *Stig of the Dump* is popular because he is disgusting without the discomfort. *Everyone Poops* rather than *Winnie the Pooh* rides high on the bestseller lists because it treats an unmentionable body process which fascinates children.

It was a Romantic fallacy to suppose that childhood experience was a world of its own, and that children's literature must be didactic and improving. But once teenagers start to read for pleasure, they have crossed a wide of passage into the grown-up world. Like adults, they will read about the things that they talk about in the playground. And there are no no-go areas in print. The schoolchildren who shadowed the Carnegie Medal shortlist for themselves this year showed more maturity than its critics. As we report on our Arts pages, one of them said: "It's not books which corrupt people; it's other people." And the children voted unanimously for *Junk* as the winner. Children should be given a chance to think for themselves. They do, and they will. That is part of reading up and growing up.

Could *The Times* be mistaken in its judgment of these ladies; or perhaps is racism as well as sexism?

Yours sincerely,
ANTONIA LLOYD-JONES,
82 Lakeside Road, W1.
July 16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Concern on ethical abortion practice

From Mr Nicholas Beale, the Rev Dr J. C. Polkinghorne, FRS, and Professor Lord Winston

Sir, Although we differ about the circumstances, if any, in which they are allowable, we all agree that abortions should not be performed if there is no genuine substantial risk to the physical or mental health of the mother or children. This is clearly what was intended by the 1967 Abortion Act. But it is also clear that there is, at least, a widespread perception that abortion is effectively available on demand in the UK, especially for those prepared to pay for it. The recent reports of so-called "lunch-hour abortions" for £285 (report, later editions, June 28) reinforce this perception.

An urgent review is needed of the operation of the Abortion Act to ensure that all clinics operate within the letter and spirit of the law. Public support for healthcare and the development of new treatments depends on public confidence that all doctors and clinics are operating to the highest ethical and legal standards.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS BEALE,
JOHN POLKINGHORNE,
ROBERT WINSTON,
c/o Sciente,
1 Hay Hill,
Berkeley Square, WI.

Freedom's boundaries

From Mr Peter Le Cheminant

Sir, To me, as an ex-Mandarin, the present controversy over "freedom of information" has a familiar ring (leading article, July 12; letters, July 15). Politicians so often think broad-brush and loathe being asked to define their proposals in detail. But the law has to be precise, and the devil frequently lies in the small print.

For instance, many advocates of freedom of information believe that the tax returns of ministers and MPs should remain private; yet the US Congress has no inhibitions about demanding, and publishing, this sort of information about candidates for high office.

Only ministers (and Parliament) can decide where the boundaries of freedom lie. Those in the Civil Service who ask awkward questions are only doing what they are paid for, and reasonably competent civil servants have nothing to fear from the opening of the books.

Politicians, on the other hand, are mostly petrified that their reasoning/motivation may be exposed to public gaze. It will be fun to see who wins.

Yours sincerely,
PETER LE CHEMINANT
(Second Permanent Secretary,
Cabinet Office (Management and
Personnel Office), 1983-84).
The Reform Club,
104 Pall Mall, SW1.

A 'say' on Amsterdam

From Mr Nigel Lea-Jones

Sir, That is why, concluded Michael Howard, now Shadow Foreign Secretary, in his letter (July 9), "the British people should be allowed to say on the Amsterdam treaty before it is ratified".

He will understand, I am sure, why the many people who campaigned so vigorously for such a "say" on the Maastricht treaty are hardly impressed by the lateness of this call. Coming from a leading member of the previous Government, such a stand of principle would then have been a substantial benefit in the cause of addressing our democratic deficit.

Let him be in no doubt that it was the decisions of people of consistently Conservative principles that led to Mr Howard and his colleagues now being in Opposition, or out of Parliament altogether.

We have not solved Maastricht/Amsterdam; but the supreme arrogance that thought we have no choice has been addressed.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL LEA-JONES,
48 Elm Park Mansions,
Park Walk, SW10.

Versace's Italy

From Miss Antonia Lloyd-Jones

Sir, I was interested to learn from your obituary of Gianni Versace today that in Italy "bourgeois Roman and Milanese girls flee to Calabria and Sicily in the summer with the express purpose of losing their virginity to the swarthy southern men".

Eager to demonstrate my enlightenment in the course of polite office conversation I asked my Italian colleague, Stefania, who comes from a well-to-do Milanese family, whether she had done to Calabria or Sicily for her own deflowering. Not only did she deny either location, she seemed offended by the question.

Could *The Times* be mistaken in its judgment of these ladies; or perhaps is racism as well as sexism?

Yours sincerely,
ANTONIA LLOYD-JONES,
82 Lakeside Road, W1.
July 16.

Broader debate on 'fat cat' lawyers

From Mr Tim O'Flynn

Sir, The new Lord Chancellor's attack on the earnings of "fat cat" lawyers (report, July 15) should not be confined to those few specialised QCs who receive over £1 million a year. They should also address some of the more modest earners.

Those of us who practise in the family courts frequently see local authorities being unable to fulfil their statutory requirements to support and assist dysfunctional families through a lack of funds. We also see QCs in our own line of work putting in claims for tens of thousands of pounds for a few weeks' work in family cases.

Compare the cars that arrive in the court car parks. Out of the shiny BMWs and Audis step the barristers to do a day or two's work. Out of the second-hand and battered Vauxhalls step the social workers who spend months and years working with these damaged children and families.

A redistribution of public funding from the legal aid fund to social services would not just help the alienated members of our society. It would also be just.

Yours faithfully,
TIM O'FLYNN
(Barrister),
13 Dover Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
July 15.

From Mr Jeffery McCann

Sir, The Lord Chancellor has berated a limited number of QCs for earning £1 million per annum. Were such earnings paid from the public purse I would wholeheartedly agree.

Such, however, is not the case. They are almost invariably commercial silks whose privately paying clients apparently consider the money well spent. The wisdom of this is a matter for them (the clients).

Yours sincerely,
JEFFERY McCANN,
3 Linley Court,
Rouse Gardens, Dulwich, SE21.

July 15.

From Mr Peter Durrant

Sir, The comments by Lord Irvine of Lairg are merely the latest example of such criticism to be expressed by a high-ranking lawyer. I suspect they are intended to fool us into thinking that something might one day happen to reduce these exorbitant charges, aptly summed up by Hilaire Belloc's rhyme about physicians:

They answered, as they took their fees,
There is no cure for this Disease.'

Yours faithfully,
PETER DURRANT,
13 Coppice Way,
South Woodford, E18.

July 15.

From Mr Peter Collymore

Sir, I note that the Registrar for Data Protection is to crusade against junk mail (report, July 14). I can discard junk mail in seconds. But I object to being telephoned out of the blue by someone trying to sell me windows or a kitchen.

Can the registrar tackle this invasion of privacy, please?

Yours faithfully,
P. K. COLLYMORE,
Barrington Cottage,
Byworth, Petworth, West Sussex.
July 14.

From Professor Barbara Goodwin

Sir, The junk mail problem is compounded when someone moves house or changes job. I did both last July, since I have spent much time writing letters to organisations that continue to use my former home or business address for mailshots. Some of this mail is wanted — eg, publishers' catalogues — but most is unsolicited or junk.

Many organisations do not update their mailing lists despite several requests. Some use out-of-date lists purchased from other sources for one-shot promotions and it is impossible

to track down the originator. Those

who have to forward junk mail to new addresses and the Royal Mail, which transports forwarded letters free of charge, are involved in considerable waste of time or additional costs by these poor practices.

The direct-mail industry should be compelled (either by a code or by law) to include in every mailshot a reply-paid card which invites the recipient to advise of any change of address and to state whether he or she wishes to continue to receive mail from that source.

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA GOODWIN
(Professor of Politics),
University of East Anglia,
School of Economics and
Social Studies,
Norwich NR4 7TJ.

July 16.

From Sir Bryan Askew

Sir, Any junk mail which includes a reply-paid envelope receives a request to delete my name from the sender's mailing list.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN ASKEW,
27 Golf Links Avenue,
Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.
July 14.

From Mr Charles Pearmain

Sir, I am horrified — if not surprised — at the proposed emasculation of BBC Radio 4's programme schedules.

I regard Radio 4 as an invaluable source of entertainment, but more importantly of information. It is already an entire magazine of programmes, offering a greater depth of detail and understanding than almost any other service. Earlier attempts to turn it into an ersatz Radio 2, such as *Anderson Country* and *The Afternoon Shift*, met with strong opposition from those who enjoy some depth to the programmes they listen to. They have done nothing to increase listening figures.

A few blemishes need correcting — the dependence on 1950s humour and the obsession with "current affairs" — and some plain warts need excising. The BBC should carry out corrective surgery by all means, but the latest proposals will leave the patient an empty husk.

Yours etc,
CHARLES PEARMAIN,
Michaelmas House,
Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire.
pearmain@cx.comlink.co.uk

From Sir David Lane

Sir, Thank you for Michael Gove's brilliant article today.

If the rumours of proposed changes to Radio 4 are well-founded, let us hope that the BBC Governors will intervene to prevent yet another downgrading of British life.

</div

Forthcoming Marriages

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR MICHAEL JAFFE

Professor Michael Jaffe, CBE, former Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, died on July 13 aged 74. He was born on June 3, 1923.

Michael Jaffe was one of the most successful museum directors of his generation. He had an extraordinary flair for finding objects of great beauty and rarity; his wide and close knowledge of dealers enabled him often to find them in unexpected places and at relatively modest prices; and he had the courage to buy things even when they did not conform to current taste and sometimes even when neither he nor anyone else could say for certain what their provenance was.

He always acted with energy and sometimes succeeded in acquiring paintings against what seemed like impossible odds: as when in 1976 he decided to try to buy the *Madonna and Child* by Van Dyck which had been sold by the Duke of Sutherland for £330,000 and the export of which had been stopped by the Reviewing Committee for the Export of Works of Art. Within a week or two of the time limit, when everyone thought he had no chance whatsoever of collecting the money, he was able to announce that a donor — who is still unnamed — had offered £100,000, and this enabled him to collect the remainder of the money required.

The self-confidence that these activities proved also manifested itself in an arrogance of manner which made him enemies. If anyone obstructed him he would, say or write things of extreme violence and then be surprised and almost hurt to find that the recipient took offence. This manner also led to his not always being loved by his students or his administrative underlings.

Andrew Michael Jaffe was born in London, the son of a well-to-do Jewish banker who had formed an important collection of portrait miniatures. He was educated at Eton, where he was in College, and in 1940 won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, but preferred to join the Navy, in which he served from 1942 to 1945, becoming a Lieutenant-commander. In 1945 he went up to Cambridge, where he read History and English, being awarded a first in Part II of the English Tripos in the History of Art. At Cambridge he was active in many fields, becoming president of the Marlowe Society and taking part in reviving *Granta*, which had stopped publication dur-



ing the war, the first number taking the form of the *Pratler*, a parody of the *Tatler*.

In 1949 he enrolled for the BA course in the History of Art at the Courtauld Institute, but did not complete the course because in 1951 he was offered a Commonwealth (later Harkness) Fellowship to America, where he spent the two following years studying at Harvard and the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. He kept up his connection with the United States and was visiting professor at Washington University, St Louis, in 1960-61.

In 1952 he was elected to a fellowship at King's and for the next twenty years played an important part in the life of the college, particularly in matters connected with the arts. He was largely responsible for the changes made in the arrangement of Hall, and for the redecoration of the senior common room, and he designed the layout of

front gate of the college and round the west end of Chapel. When in 1961 Rubens' *Adoration of the Magi* was presented to the college by Major A. E. Allatt, he was the Fellow charged with finding a suitable setting for it. It was entirely due to his energy and persistence that the college eventually decided to put it against the east wall of the Chapel, a project which involved drastic alterations to the choir, including the lowering of the eastern part of the pavement and the removal of the paneling round the east end (18th and 19th-century arrangements respectively) — both alterations which aroused considerable opposition.

At the same time he was active in university affairs particularly in the setting up of a department of Art History. In this he had to overcome resistance both from the more old-fashioned senior members of the university, who considered the subject frivolous and not susceptible of scholarly treatment, and from some

members of the faculty of Architecture, who viewed it with positive hostility; but once again his energy and persistence defeated the opposition. In 1970 the subject was approved for Part II of the Tripos, and Jaffe was made a lecturer in the History of Art; in 1973 he was made Professor, just at the moment that he was offered the Directorship of the Fitzwilliam Museum on the resignation of David Piper.

In the following years he saw through the completion of the extension to the galleries and offices of the museum, the plans of which had been prepared by his predecessor. He went on to secure some remarkable acquisitions, many of which might normally have been beyond the means of a small museum with a derisory purchase grant: most valuable among them was Renior's *Place Clichy*, bought for £1 million in 1986 from Sarah Price, daughter of R. A. Butler and his first wife Sydney (née Courtauld).

Although he suffered many years of poor health, he remained at the Fitzwilliam for 17 years, retiring as planned in 1990. Nor did illness prevent him from organising an important exhibition of Old Master drawings from Chatsworth at the British Museum in 1993; his four-volume catalogue of the Chatsworth drawings was published in 1994. He was appointed CBE in 1989.

He married, in 1964, Patricia Milne-Henderson, herself an expert in art and art history. She survives him with their two sons and two daughters.

ALWYN McKAY

Alwyn McKay, pioneer nuclear scientist, died in Oxford on July 3 aged 83. He was born on July 4, 1913.

into the lunch room." The influence of this formidable character left an enduring mark on McKay's own researches as a nuclear chemist.

After release from the Navy in 1947, he joined the Atomic Energy Research establishment at Harwell, becoming principal scientific officer in 1948 and leader successively of the heavy elements and separation processes groups, dealing with the chemistry of the separation of plutonium. He was a first-rate scientist, and highly regarded. His greatest



ALWYN McKAY was part of the group working with the famous nuclear innovator Niels Bohr in Copenhagen towards the end of the golden age of atomic physics. This great European venture included pioneers from many countries. At the time of McKay's arrival, the researches of Enrico Fermi were just coming through from Italy, translated by a young Italian-speaking Austrian refugee from the Nazis, Otto Frisch.

This work stimulated the next stage of discovery, with an appeal for money to buy six tenths of a gram of radium. With the neutrons that could then be produced, and the subsequent experiments concerning their passage through matter, a new picture of the atom's nucleus was constructed.

In 1954-55 he "discovered" Van Dyck's Antwerp Sketchbook in the library at Chatsworth, where it had long been known to scholars but had been dismissed as the work of a follower. He published it in 1966 in a fine edition with learned commentary. From the 1950s onwards he published articles on Rubens and his followers in many learned periodicals and in 1968 he organised a large Jordana exhibition in Ottawa, where some of his bolder attributions were challenged and some controversy with other scholars ensued. In 1977 he published *Rubens and Italy* in which he incorporated material which he had published in articles in various journals, but also added much that was new, based on his recent research.

THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

NEWS

Rebates plan for top-up pensions

■ The Government will today announce a shake-up of pension provision including a radical plan to give national insurance rebates to millions of people if they join flexible new personal schemes. The centrepiece of the proposals will be chance for everyone to hold a second "stakeholder" pension to top up their basic state pension Page 1

Brown reopens debate on EMU

■ Gordon Brown will launch a debate on European economic and monetary union and revive the fiercest political controversy of the past five years Pages 1, II

Versace 'knew killer'

Gianni Versace, the Italian fashion designer, may have met his alleged killer Pages 1, 12, 13

Electric shock

An 86-year-old woman has spent 20 years without electricity after thinking she had been cut off because she used too little Page 7

Shares record

The stock market stormed to a record high and unemployment fell to its lowest level for seven years Page 1

BSE in humans

British research into BSE shows that infectious proteins from contaminated beef can, in laboratory tests, be transmitted to human tissue Page 2

Eiffel Tower strike

Tourists were turned away from the Eiffel Tower when employees went on strike over the sacking of a tour guide Page 3

Litigious priest

A clergyman was declared a vexatious litigant over his campaign on women priests Page 5

Spy camera row

Ministers were in conflict with the police over a refusal to use speeding fines to pay for more spy cameras Page 6

Oil disaster charges

Criminal charges are to be brought against senior harbour managers over the Sea Empress oil disaster Page 7

Hospital reform

Queue-jumping by patients of fundholding doctors is to be stopped and hospitals will have to admit people for treatment on medical need only Page 9

Golden words

A woman aged 25 who twice failed GCSE English has reportedly signed a £750,000 deal for her first three books Page 10

Korean border crisis

North Korean troops penetrated the military demarcation line with South Korea Page 14

French civil war

A barely civil war of words broke out between the two most powerful men in France Page 15



Cilla Black, the television celebrity, with her husband, Bobby, and her son, Jack, at Buckingham Palace to be made a CBE.

BUSINESS

Telecoms: BT pledged to complete its £1.2 billion merger with MCI in the face of mounting losses in the American phone company's local business but left the door open to renegotiate the price Page 25

Boeing: The clash over the merger of with McDonnell Douglas came to a head when EU competition experts unanimously opposed the creation of the world's largest aerospace company Page 25

Banking: One of the top executives at Barclays, Sir Zoë Wedd, the troubled investment banking arm of Barclays, resigned to take the helm at Eagle Star Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 64.9 to 4,964.2. Sterling rose from \$1.651 to 105.2 up from \$1.6743 to \$1.6758; down from DM3.041 to DM3.0124 Page 28

SPORTS

Golf: Tom Lehman begins the defence of the Open Championship with almost everything in apple pie order and swept along on a wave of support from the Scots Page 48

Cricket: Mike Smith, the Gloucestershire bowler, is to be called into the England party for the fourth Test after taking six Derbyshire wickets on the opening day of the Cheltenham Festival Page 44

Cycling: Another controversial stage finish in the Tour de France saw Seregrin Outschakov, of Ukraine, relegated to third place for dangerous sprinting Page 46

Racing: Hawksbill Hill produced a career best effort to win the £90,000 Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy at Sandown, the most valuable mile race run at the course Page 42

Formula 1: Damon Hill produced a career best effort to win the £90,000 Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy at Sandown, the most valuable mile race run at the course Page 42

ARTS

Fame: Four years and dozens of imitative movies after *Jurassic Park* made us jump, Steven Spielberg's sequel *The Lost World* seems almost feeble Page 53

Old boy: Benedict Nightingale reviews *Divorce Me, Darling* at Chichester and finds Sandy Wilson's follow-up to *The Boy Friend* less hummable or touching than the original Page 34

Russian sleeper: The Kirov are getting to grips with the great choreographer George Balanchine - but *Symphony in C* and *Giselle* displayed some problems Page 34

Book worm: The Carnegie Award for children's books has gone to the controversial *Junk*, about two 14-year-olds seduced by heroin. What do teenagers think? Page 35

TOMORROW**IN THE TIMES**

POP
Chartbusting:
Alan Jackson reports on how Radio 2 is starting to influence the top 40

EDUCATION
The Dearing report:
can there be one degree standard?

The Times Crossword Championship 1997 Qualifying Puzzle

Here is the qualifying puzzle for The Times Crossword Championship 1997, which will be held as a single session event on Sunday August 24, 1997, at the Royal Festival Hall, between 3pm and 6.30pm.

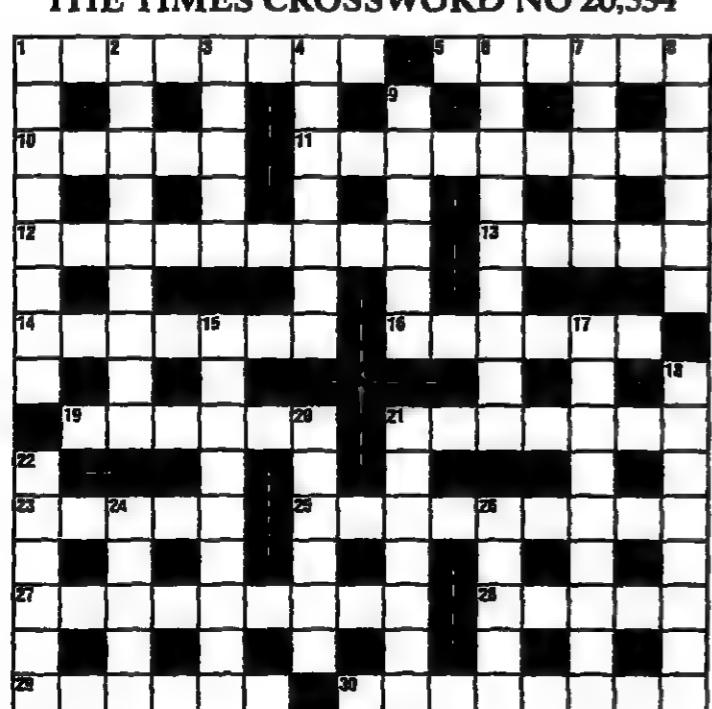
Please enter me for the 1997 crossword championship. I enclose my solution, a £10 entry fee (cheque no. payable to The Times Crossword Championship 1997) and a large stamped s.a.e. The solution will appear on July 24.

(Please print) Name Address

Postcode

Send your entry to: The Times Crossword Championship 1997, 13, Church Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2ES. All entries must be postmarked no later than Wednesday July 23, 1997.

Competition Rules:
1. Qualifying competitors will be those who correctly solve this puzzle and submit it to the competition.
2. A £10 entry fee and stamped s.a.e. postmarked no later than July 23, 1997. 3. Qualifying competitors will be invited to the Royal Festival Hall, subject to the winner's capacity, on the basis of the least number of mistakes in the qualifying puzzle. 4. At the championship on Sunday August 24, competitors will be asked to enter a crossword puzzle. Times entries will be accepted with a time limit of 30 minutes.
5. Competitors will be given first priority to a solution and the fastest speed two-line bonus points will be given for an incorrect puzzle. 6. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Crossword Editor of The Times will be final. 6. Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd may not compete.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,534**ACROSS**

- 1 Ruth concealing brooch in slipper (6)
- 5 City section ready for merger when required (4-2).
- 10 As part of scoring effort, very short attack (5).
- 11 Prepare to punish soundly? Pro-test heatedly (5-4).
- 12 A group, originally, the king assembled (9).
- 13 Fare from Japan this US high-flier needs (5).
- 14 Heads off gun raid led without back-up (7).
- 16 How children can playfully send each other up (6).
- 19 Unconscious mastermind? (6).
- 21 Cover a dish from top to bottom (3-3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,533

GO TO THE GUYROPS
G N H A N A O
G U I K R O U N D G A Y E R
S A R T E L E
P O R T I C O R E R O O F S
L G C M S A T
A R E C A A N T I B O D Y
N N T A L R
B E N E D I C T Y
A M G E C H D
D R E A M U P M A K E O F F
O R U I E B N A
R E I G N L A N G U E D O C
T H O T T R D E
D J I B Q U I I N W A R D

23 Almost remove from container? Cooper's brave (5).

25 Save a sailor, one arriving at a romantic island (9).

27 Edward's old relative with poor vision (9).

28 Tenor's line in musical (5).

29 In sun I'd rejected last of raiment? (6).

30 Poet from American city entering verse competition (8).

DOWN

1 Northern town's run out of cake (5).

2 Sole means of punishment (9).

3 Upstart looks up David's victim (5).

4 Cambridge University (7).

6 Fail to turn out as expected (9).

7 Oriental's courteous (5).

8 From Rome, now, I ring papal official (6).

9 Money for elementary education increased by two-thirds (6).

15 Man's benefit (6).

17 Cat at home in green room? (9).

18 Refusal, say, to enter race (9).

20 Starting point for tales a poet put together (6).

21 Historian, the exact opposite of 27, possibly (7).

22 Hamlet, deserted, in shade (6).

24 Take heads off chrysanthemum - you could also deadhead this plant (5).

26 Can journey to the interior and cross between wild animals (5).

UK INFORMATION

Local Road and Weather conditions

0898 226 0000 All regions 0336 444 910

0898 Roads - All regions 0336 441 410

0336 441 766

M25 and Link Roads 0326 441 767

National Highways 0336 441 768

Channel crossings 0336 441 910

Passenger Services 0336 447 506

0336 447 506

Weather by Fax

0898 226 followed by area number from the West Country 410 0000 410 0000

Midlands 410 2225 410 2225

Heads 410 2226 National Gridcode 410 2227

West 410 2228 London 410 2229

N. East 410 2229 410 2229

Scotland 410 2240 410 2240

Northern Ireland 410 2241 410 2241

Met Office 410 2242 410 2242

0898 226 0000 410 2242

0898 226 0000 410 2242

0898 226 0000 410 2242

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THE TIMES

Just in time

INSIDE
SECTION2
TODAY**BUSINESS**

Graham Seárjeant says hands off our pensions
PAGE 29

FOCUS

Construction builds bridges to the future
PAGE 38-41

SPORT

Champion Lehman on the attack at British Open
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

Shares march to record levels

FTSE 100 pushes closer to 5,000 mark as New York and Frankfurt reach highs

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE stock market is expected to break through the symbolic 5,000 point level imminently as traders continue to drive the market, ignoring concerns about rising interest rates and the strong pound.

The FTSE 100 closed up 64.9 points at 4,964.2 yesterday, having at one stage during the day touched 4,991.3.

The financial services sector accounted for almost half the rise as bid speculation and stock shortages continued to push prices higher. Pharmaceutical stocks also continued to attract buyers as results from American competitors pointed towards rising drug sales.

International markets also moved to record highs. In New York, the Dow Jones broke through the 8,000 level, while European stock markets received a boost from the dollar's renewed climb on the foreign exchanges. The Paris CAC-40 closed up 37.31 points at 2,988.01, while the Dax 30 in Frankfurt finished at a record high of 4,201.24.

Dealers said strong overseas interest and the high level of cash held by institutional funds was likely to continue to push the London market higher. But many economists are sceptical about whether the rise can be maintained, with further interest rate rises expected in the coming months.

Fears of another quarterly rate rise next month receded only slightly yesterday after the latest employment data showed a fall in average earnings growth despite another large decline in the number of people out of work.

Average earnings rose by 4.25 per cent in June, compared

with 4.5 per cent the previous month, as the City census round came to a close. The increase in service sector earnings also slowed slightly, falling a quarter point to 4.5 per cent.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment declined a further 36,500 to 1,600,800 or 5.7 per cent of the total workforce. The Office for National Statistics said the impact of the introduction of the Jobseekers' Allowance had now dropped out of the figures and that the trend fall in unemployment

A high pound and potentially higher interest rates should not make for an even higher stock market. And what about the £70 billion cost to UK companies of the change to the taxation of dividend credits for pension funds? The market seems to have shrugged that off. Apparently, fund managers who manage the money behind the market think it is too high, yet the FTSE 100 is rising. The stock market appears to be living in a world of its own, driven by bid rumours and unrealistic expectations. Surely, there is a correction coming. But where? Commentary, page 27

was running at 20,000 to 35,000 a month.

Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, said the latest data supported growing evidence that the labour market is not strong and that inflationary pressures are easing. But Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, said that the rise in vacancies and a further large fall in unemployment still pointed towards a tightening

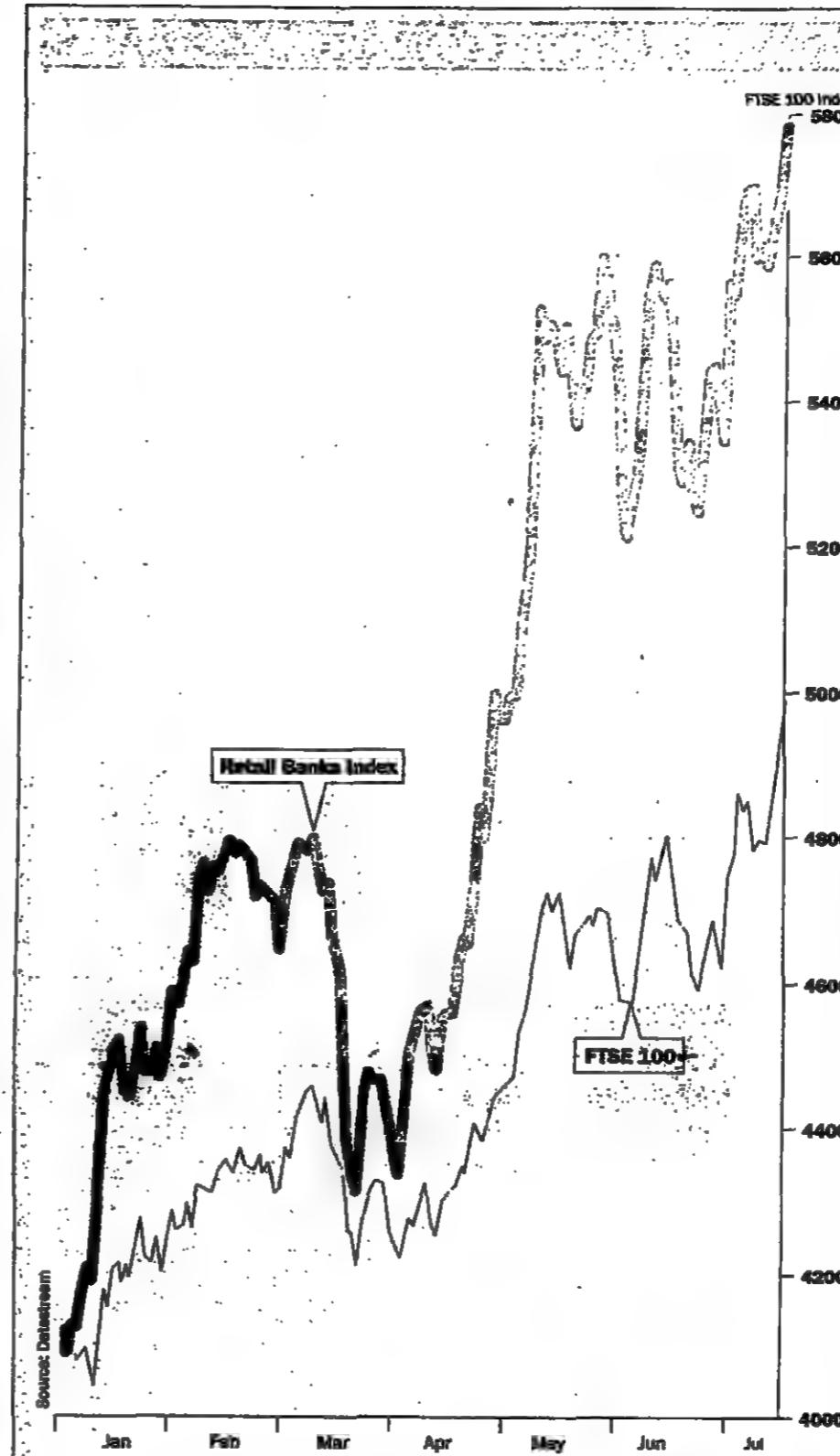
labour market. The Bank of England has expressed concern over the inflationary impact of the strong labour market in recent months and the better than expected earnings figures may ease pressure for another interest rate rise next month.

The minutes for the June monetary policy committee meeting, the first since the Bank was granted operational independence in May, show the newly installed committee was unanimous in its decision to raise rates by a quarter point. The committee expressed concern over the high level of the pound but concluded domestic demand was sufficiently strong to warrant a further tightening in monetary policy.

Separate data published yesterday showed that Government borrowing increased unexpectedly in June. The public sector borrowing requirement increased to £4.75 billion in June compared with £3.73 billion in May and £3.77 billion in June last year. The running total for the financial year so far is £9.6 billion, before privatisation proceeds, compared with £11.3 billion this time last year. Economists said the Government was on course to meet its full-year PSBR forecast of £10.9 billion.

Government interest payments on gilts jumped sharply as payments are now concentrated in June and December, while VAT receipts fell in comparison with last year because of the introduction of a quarterly system of payments for large companies.

But the Government has kept well within its tough spending regime with total expenditure falling 1.3 per cent in the first three months.



Warring bankers drive up prices

By JON ASHWORTH AND MARTIN WALLER

THE extraordinary rise in share prices this year has been fuelled by frenzied speculation of takeovers by banks and insurance companies, although a bid of any significance has yet to emerge.

Takeover paranoia among banks and other financial institutions has resulted in full-scale "war games" aimed at simulating what happens when a hostile bidder swoops.

Abbey National has been holding dry runs with advisers, amid speculation that various suitors, including NatWest Group and HSBC, owner of Midland Bank, have been casting the slide rule over its books. Moreover, leading PR bid advisers such as Brunswick and Citigate are said to be on 24-hour alert, while some corporate financiers are reported to have cancelled summer holidays.

Bid speculation has reached such a pitch that the only question seems to be whether the expected predators will pounce now or wait until the interim results season in a couple of weeks time. Abbey National, which is determined to safeguard its independence, says it has contingency plans for all manner of developments.

Fingers continue to point at NatWest, seen as vulnerable in the wake of the derivatives mispricing losses, and at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

Halifax shares are trading at 18 times earnings, against a sector average of 12. The fear is that potential bidders will end up paying a huge premium at the top of the market.

BZW departure, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY
STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4,964.2	(+64.9)
Yield	3.35%	
FTSE All share	2,916.03	(+26.22)
Nikkei	20,358.74	(+269.33)
New York	1,044.00	(+10.00)
Dax 30	8,028.11	(+50.40)*
S&P Composite	934.77	(+9.01)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.50%	(5.1%)
Long Bond	101.75	(101.50)
Yield	6.48%	(6.65%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	814.45	(814.00)
Libor long gilt future (Sep)	1147.45	(1144.00)

STERLING

New York	1.6748*	(1.6768)
London	1.6755	(1.6745)
DM	3.0116	(3.0145)
FFR	10.1720	(10.1800)
JPY	2.2470	(2.2473)
Yen	104.47	(104.50)
E index	105.2	(105.1)

SSS DOLLAR

DM	1.7980*	(1.7935)
FFR	8.0560*	(8.0506)
JPY	14.6835*	(14.7355)
Yen	116.35	(115.77)
E index	104.0	(103.8)

TOKYO CLOSE

Yen	115.88	
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NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$16.94	(\$16.35)
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GOLD

London close	\$319.15	(\$316.75)
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* denotes midday trading price

Departure

A senior BZW executive left the troubled investment bank to take the helm at Eagle Star, the insurer. The departure follows claims that uncertainty over the bank's future, as well as a move from the City of London to Canary Wharf, has prompted some analysts and traders to leave. Page 26

Opposition

Moves to overcome the opposition of LVMH to the merger of Guinness and GrandMet were in disarray after the UK companies gave short shrift to the latest peace overtures. Page 27

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ALLIED DUNBAR

Brussels opposes Boeing merger

By OLIVER AUGUST

THIS clash over the \$13.3 billion (about £7.9 billion) merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas came to a head last night when EU anti-trust experts opposed the creation of the world's largest aerospace company.

The European Commission is now expected to block the merger by threatening the imposition of heavy fines after last-minute negotiations failed to yield sufficient concessions from Boeing. The merger is seen as a threat to Airbus, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace.

Governments in Bonn, Paris and Washington are supporting their respective aerospace industries and a trade war is looming. Jacques Chirac, the French president, said: "We strongly support the Commission... [The merger] could be extremely dangerous."

Mr Williams, who received £9.4 million in 1994 when he sold part of his holding in British Bus, was convicted of conspiracy to corrupt, by a unanimous jury verdict at the Old Bailey in London.

Ian Harvey, the First National Bank of Boston executive who ran British Bus's account, was found guilty of the same charge, relating to a period between January 1992 and August 1994. The two men will be sentenced on September 5. Mr Williams, 59, of Ringwood, Hamp-

CBI urges Blair to delay euro

By ERIC REGULY

LEDERS of the Confederation of British Industry will today tell Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, that CBI members want Britain to refrain from joining Europe's single currency in the early stages (Philip Bassett writes).

Sir Colin Marshall, the CBI president, and Adair Turner, director-general, will tell Mr Blair that although business is broadly in favour of a single currency, Britain must wait to see if monetary union is effective before taking part.

A member of the CBI's governing council said: "With sterling appreciating by 20 per cent over the past year, that's a very clear indication that now would not be the right time to enter. The exchange rate position is far too unstable to lock the pound into a single currency now."

BT pledges to proceed with MCI merger

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday pledged to complete its £12 billion merger with MCI in the face of mounting losses in the American phone company's local business, but left open the door to renegotiate the price.

BT said that no decision to reduce the price would be taken until it had completed an extensive review, which is to begin immediately, of MCI's multibillion-dollar push into the local market in the US.

The difficulties in penetrating the newly deregulated market triggered a surprise profit warning from MCI last week, putting pressure on BT to defend the acquisition and review the purchase price.

Sir Iain Vallance, the BT

shire, bribed Mr Harvey, 40, of Little Hacham, Herefordshire, after Robson Rhodes, British Bus's auditors, requested proof that the company could afford its debts before the 1992-93 accounts were signed off.

The company, which ran UK-wide bus services, had been unable to raise money by selling down centre bus stations because of the early-1990s property slump. Mr Harvey wrote letters pledging the bank's "open-ended" support without informing his head office. British Bus eventually traded out of its difficulties and the bank made a profit on the shares.

For that, Mr Harvey only received £60,000, which was paid after Mr

Bus chief guilty of £1m bribe

By ADAM JONES

DAWSON WILLIAMS, the former chairman of British Bus, was found guilty yesterday of bribing a bank manager with £1 million when the privatised transport company hit financial difficulties.

Mr Williams, who received £9.4 million in 1994 when he sold part of his holding in British Bus, was convicted of conspiracy to corrupt, by a unanimous jury verdict at the Old Bailey in London.

Ian Harvey, the First National Bank of Boston executive who ran British Bus's account, was found guilty of the same charge, relating to a period between January 1992 and August 1994. The two men will be sentenced on September 5. Mr Williams, 59, of Ringwood, Hamp-

Commentary, page 29

Euromoney in £84m Disney deal

Euromoney Publications, the international business magazine group, has agreed to buy the *Institutional Investor* titles from The Walt Disney Company for \$142 million (£84 million) — its largest ever acquisition.

Institutional Investor, which publishes 24 newsletters as well as its flagship magazine, last year returned profits of £4 million — a margin of 9 per cent against Euromoney's 24 per cent.

Euromoney said it would be looking at means of stripping costs from the magazine company, which employs 500 staff worldwide, but said it was too early to decide whether jobs will be lost. The shares were unchanged at £15.47s.

Software pact

Oxford Molecular, the drug design software company, has entered into a new collaboration with Glaxo Wellcome to improve DIVA, their jointly developed system for analysing chemical and biological data.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sale
Australia \$	2.38	2.30
Austria Sch	22.16	20.50
Belgium Fr	85.31	80.35
Canada \$	2.426	2.326
Cyprus Cyp	0.926	0.896
Danmark Kr	12.09	11.19
Falkland Mdk	5.43	5.18
France Fr	10.82	10.25
Germany Dm	3.17	2.95
Greece Dr	4.99	4.60
Hong Kong \$	13.77	12.57
Iceland Is	1.87	1.77
Ireland P	1.17	1.14
Israel Shek	4.28	4.01
Italy Lira	3097	2880
Japan Yen	105.85	102.10
Lithuania Lt	0.570	0.550
Netherlands Gld	3.570	3.284
New Zealand \$	2.70	2.45
Norway Kr	15.11	14.25
Portugal Esc	110.03	104.00
S Africa Rand	8.35	7.59
Spain Pta	264.79	246.00
Sweden Kr	13.93	12.80
Switzerland Fr	2.94	2.42
Turkey Lira	249.14	249.50
USA \$	1.761	1.608

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Bankers PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

BZW executive quits to lead Eagle Star

By ADAM JONES



Patrick O'Sullivan is the latest of many to leave BZW

ONE of the leading executives at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the troubled investment banking arm of Barclays, resigned yesterday to take the helm at Eagle Star, the insurer.

The departure of Patrick O'Sullivan, 48, the chief operating officer, follows uncertainty over the bank's future, as well as a move from the City of London to Canary Wharf that has been unpopular with some staff. He is the latest in a flood of departures since Bill Harrison joined last year from Flemings to succeed David Bland, who died of a heart attack.

The market has been awash with rumours about the future of BZW. Among the options suggested have been a flotation of the business and a merger with NatWest Markets, the investment banking arm of NatWest Group.

NatWest Markets is also under a cloud, with Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, temporarily in charge after the resignation of NatWest Markets' boss, Martin Owen, after its options losses earlier this year.

NatWest said it would reveal

its future plans for NatWest Markets on August 5 with its half-year figures.

The move also renewed expectations that BAT Industries, the owner of Eagle Star, is to embark on a significant restructuring of its financial

life assurer.

There have been rumours of a merger between Eagle Star and Commercial Union's UK

interests and of a bid for Norwich Union by BAT.

Eagle Star said yesterday that it was leaving its options open. However, Lord Cairns, BAT's chairman, strongly hinted at a demerger at BAT's annual shareholders' meeting in May.

Mr O'Sullivan joined the Barclays subsidiary in 1994 as head of bank finance. He previously worked for Arthur Andersen, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Financial Guaranty Insurance Company, a subsidiary of General Electric.

As chief operating officer, he chaired BZW's operating committee. He will join Eagle Star in September.

Sandy Leitch, chief executive of British American Financial Services (BAFS), said yesterday the appointment should not be taken as a sign that a flotation or merger, or both, is definitely planned.

Mr O'Sullivan commented: "Sandy's goals and ambitions for BAFS are very attractive. I'm more than delighted."

He said insurance was experiencing the same trends in areas such as globalisation and risk management as retail and investment banking.

Bulmer to double marketing spend

By DOMINIC WALSH

HP BULMER, the UK's biggest cidermaker, with Strongbow, Woodpecker and White Lightning, is almost doubling its marketing spend this year.

The move follows a rise of almost 10 per cent in full-year profits and is expected to wipe out any profits growth this financial year.

Bulmer's £8 million spend is similar to Matthew Clark's investment after its savaging by the alecopos sector. Their combined spend of more than £16 million compares to £6 million last year, £4.7 million of it Bulmer's.

John Rudgard, chief executive, said the main target would be the 18 to 24 age group, responsible for 70 per cent of cider consumption but has seen a slight decline in the past three years. In the year to April 25, Bulmer profits before tax and exceptional were up 9.2 per cent, to £30.1 million, on turnover up 20 per cent at £310.5 million.

Bulmer lifted market share to 54.5 per cent, its highest for more than 30 years. A 9.02p final dividend, due September 15, makes 14.52p, up 10 per cent. Earnings per share before exceptional rose to 36.19p.

Strong product demand lifts Pru

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

STRONG demand for life and pensions products in the UK helped to boost new business figures from Prudential.

Prudential yesterday reported growth of 23 per cent in single premium life, pension and investment products to £3.6 billion and growth of 20 per cent to £294 million in regular premium sales in the first six months of 1997.

The figures were higher than had been forecast.

But separate figures from Legal & General were slightly below market expecta-

tions. At L&G, new UK equivalent premium income rose 24 per cent to £175 million while worldwide new equivalent premium income was £215 million, an increase of 16 per cent on the comparable period last year.

In the UK, single premium sales by the Prudential grew 15 per cent to £1.8 billion and regular premiums increased 16 per cent to £82 million.

Sales of the Prudence Bond increased 47 per cent to £539 million. It is now Prudential UK's best selling product.

Temps, page 28

BAe seeks unlimited right to continue arms sales

By OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH Aerospace held talks at the Foreign Office yesterday to lobby the Government against restricting arms exports to countries with doubtful human rights records.

Mike Turner, a BAe executive director, met Derek Fatchett, the minister responsible for Asia and the Middle East, to discuss new export licences. Labour has pledged to stop arms exports to regimes known for their unethical conduct. A review of the export policy is expected by the end of this month.

BAe is a major arms supplier to the Indonesian armed forces. Peace protesters have alleged that BAe's Hawk training aircraft have been used to attack the East Timorese population. BAe annual meetings have been disrupted by protesters for several years.

A BAe spokesman said:

"Mike Turner went to the Foreign Office to discuss a number of topics. Export licences was one of them." Civil servants at the Foreign Office have drawn up a list of measures that Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, could implement to restrict arms exports. It is believed he could force BAe to cancel some contracts or prevent it from negotiating contract extensions.

Analysts believe that the policy review could pose a serious threat to BAe profits.

Last month IBCA, the ratings agency, raised BAe's long-term rating, citing defence exports as a reason. IBCA said: "The defence operations are the all-important cash and profit generators of the group, representing 65 per cent of BAe's all-time high order book of £19 billion."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "The meeting was held at British Aerospace's request. It was a two-way conversation but more BAe-to-minister than the other way around."

Difficult customer, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

MMC delays report on Freemans sale

SEARS and Littlewoods must wait an extra two months to find out whether the repeatedly delayed sale of Sears' Freemans catalogue business to the Liverpool-based retail-pools group can go ahead. A report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was scheduled for delivery to the DTI on Monday. The delay to September 22 means that Sears' long-suffering shareholders are unlikely to receive their 24p per share special dividend until next year. It had been expected in December. The news sent Sears' shares down 22p to 62.2p, not far above their five-year low of 58p in 1993.

The DTI said that the MMC had requested the extended deadline because of the complexity of the issues raised by the merger. Sears and Littlewoods, which have said they believe that the matter should not have needed a referral, remained confident yesterday that the deal would be allowed.

Wray buys pizza slice

NIGEL WRAY, the entrepreneur behind the Burford property group, is buying a slice of Domino's Pizza, the pizza delivery firm, for up to £2.75 million. Mr Wray, whose interests include Saracens Rugby Club and Nottingham Forest Football Club, is buying up to 20 per cent of Domino's Pizza Group, which holds the UK franchise for the US pizza company. The money will help to expand the company from its current total of 140 stores, paving the way for an eventual stock market flotation.

Allied Textile seeks deal

ALLIED TEXTILE remains on the lookout for acquisitions both at home and abroad but has yet to find exactly what it wants, the company said yesterday. It reported an 8.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.95 million for the six months to March 31. The advance was achieved in spite of the rise of sterling affecting sales abroad, which account for 53 per cent of the company's revenues. Earnings per share were 6.0p, up from 5.1p, and the interim dividend has been lifted from 2.6p to 2.75p.

Microgen at 2-year low

SHARES of Microgen Holdings fell to a two-year low as the struggling microfilm producer gave warning that the strong pound and difficult market conditions had wiped out any chances of growth this year. Pre-tax profits were £4.21 million (£4.87 million) at the half-way stage, it said, and would be significantly below the expected £9 million by the year end. Analysts wrote down forecasts to £7 million, as the shares fell 31p to 118.1p. Earnings were 6.9p (8p) a share for the six months to April 30, but the interim dividend stays at 2.4p.

First Technology grows

FIRST Technology, the crash-test dummy and fuel valve company, beat City forecasts with pre-tax profits of £9.23 million (£7.27 million) in the year to April 30. Renault and Fiat, the main customers for its emergency fuel cut-off valve, sold thousands of new cars through government schemes, encouraging owners of ten-year-old cars to trade them in. The strength of sterling wiped £300,000 from profits, leaving earnings at 38.1p (30.1p) a share. A 6.6p final dividend, due October 13, makes the total 10.8p (8.5p).

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Anderson Consulting, Computacenter, SAP, and many others.

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Business Roundup
C delays report
seemans sale

buys pizza slice

Textile seeks deal

gen at 2-year low

Technology grows

ses

it

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

BUSINESS NEWS 27

So Sir Iain Vallance is pressing ahead with the MCI merger, though he might ask for a price cut. Alternatively, investors might requisition an EGM and propose the deal is scuppered unless the terms are changed. This might save BT the \$150 million penalty that its management allowed MCI to insert into the agreement.

Sir Iain needs to deliver a good result from the MCI talks. MCI's "surprise" profits warning raised the question: how much did BT know and when did it know it? If BT was genuinely surprised last week that MCI's losses, in penetrating the local phone market will double this year to \$800 million, then its senior executives should be taken to task for sloppy management. If it was not surprised, then it should not have been so euphoric about the deal at April's extraordinary meeting, when it sought and obtained approval to proceed with the £12 billion takeover.

BT should have been well-aware of MCI's difficulties in cracking the local market long before last week. BT has owned 20 per cent of MCI since 1993 and the top executives of both companies sit on each other's boards. Since last November, when BT agreed to buy MCI, this relationship has become even closer with the two hatching plans to integrate their operations.

Admittedly Clinton's 1996 Telecommunications Act has been an unmitigated disaster. The Act, promoted as the most wide ranging reform of the phone market since the Depression, was supposed to eliminate remaining trade barriers, allowing local, long distance and cable companies to compete in each other's markets. On paper, it was a great achievement; in practice, nothing changed. Local monopolies are alive and well and will do anything legal to keep it that way.

But the Act's shortcomings were suspected last year and apparent before April (not least to this column). BT either chose to ignore the warning signs or did not understand their significance. The most charitable reading possible is that BT took its eye off the ball.

BT says it has now passed the point of no return. It has no choice but to go ahead with the takeover, which limits its room for manoeuvre when renegotiating the price. Shareholders, who held out in droves last week on the profits warning, have every right to be wary. How many

more surprises are in store? Has BT, as one shareholder asked yesterday, been "suckered" by its friends at MCI?

BT's efforts to restore confidence did not succeed yesterday. It will now have to go out of its way to keep investors informed about the merger every step of the way. One more shock announcement could kill the deal.

An index in a world of its own

In case you have not been paying attention — here are the deals that are supposed to be happening in the financial services sector. The Pru is buying NatWest or maybe Abbey National, the Halifax or the Woolwich. HSBC is buying NatWest, Abbey National, Royal Bank of Scotland or the Halifax, Barclays

is buying NatWest, and is also buying BZW or else buying NatWest Markets and then demerging Royal Bank of Scotland or Norwich Union, which in turn is about to be bought by BAT. Or else the Bank of Scotland is buying NatWest. For its part NatWest thought everything was too expensive last year, when it was still able to buy and the sector was 20 per cent cheaper.

As the FTSE 100 index powered towards 5,000 yesterday, the financial services sector led the way. The retail banks were up an average of 2.6 per cent — twice the rise of the FTSE, which the banks now dominate. This is not surprising. Real industry is suffering because of the strong pound. The retailers are enjoying the short term benefits of the building society windfalls. But the banks

are being buoyed by technical factors and bid premiums.

If the market is right and there is about to be a massive shake-up in the retail financial services industry, this will create widespread job losses and add to the country's economic woes. And will it do much for the efficient provision of financial services? Is there a great volume of Abbey Life products actually sold through the Lloyds TSB network? And Lloyds is supposed to be the most efficient operator in the sector.

A high pound and potentially higher interest rates should not make for an ever higher stock market. And what about the £70 billion cost to UK companies of the change to the taxation of dividend credits for pension funds. The market seems to have shrugged that off. Apparently all the fund managers, who actually

manage the money behind the market, think it is too high, yet the FTSE keeps on rising. The stock market appears to be living in a world of its own, powered by bid rumours and unrealistic expectations. Surely there is a correction coming. But when?

Time for glasnost at the Old Lady

Two months and two interest rate rises have passed since the Bank of England gained operational independence. But it was only yesterday, with the publication of the June 6 monetary policy committee minutes, that the outside world could see the new system in action. Gone are the sharp differences that marked the "Ken and Eddie" show in favour of a bland discussion of the state of the economy, with the committee speaking at all times in a single voice.

There is something slightly unreal about these minutes. They indicate about as much dissent as the average Politburo meeting, despite the Bank admiring

taking a serious "policy dilemma" because of the high level of the pound. It is hard to believe that Eddie George and Professor Willem Buiter, who expressed concern about the balance of the economy just before joining the committee, are united over this problem. But judging from these minutes, the Bank seems to want to stick to its policy of shutting its eyes and hoping the problem will go away. It hasn't.

Sterling has risen a further 8 per cent against the mark since this meeting. Two fundamental causes of the appreciation — EMU turmoil and the large interest rate differential between the UK and other major economies — also suggest the pound is set to stay strong well into next year. Time for glasnost on Threadneedle Street.

Oh no Arnault

NO ONE seriously believes that Burger King and Guinness Brewing will be part of GMG Branda in a decade's time. So Bernard Arnault's plan to throw the drinks part of his LVMH into melting pot makes sense. What is currently holding up the resolution of this issue is the price that M Arnault wants for including Moët Hennessy in the equation and the determination of George Bull and Tony Greener to present it as their deal.

Forbes in £84m cash bid for UK insurer

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Forbes Group, South Africa's biggest insurance group, is making an agreed £84 million offer for Nelson Hurst, the international insurance broker based in London.

The deal provides Forbes with a springboard for overseas expansion. Nelson Hurst has an extensive network in Asia and Latin America. The cash offer values each Nelson Hurst £15p, a premium of 43 per cent to the closing middle market price of 129p on Tuesday.

The companies already have a close trading relationship and share seats on each other's boards. Grand Metropole, group managing director of Forbes said that the link provided an entry to the emerging markets in Latin America and Asia where the rise of an affluent middle class has sparked growing demand for documents and other financial assurance products.

Forbes owns 9.94 per cent of Nelson Hurst shares and has irrevocable undertakings over a further 11.17 per cent of the shares. If the bid succeeds, Nelson Hurst does not intend to pay an interim dividend in the six months to end-June. David Woodward and John Percy-Davis will continue in their current roles as chairman and chief executive of Nelson Hurst for at least the next three years.

Arnault plan for single drinks giant dismissed

By DOMINIC WALSH

MOVES to overcome the opposition of Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, to the proposed £24 billion merger of Guinness and Grand Metropole were in disarray last night after the UK companies gave short shrift to its latest overtures.

LVMH, which is the largest shareholder in both British companies, yesterday issued a formal proposal that its own Moët Hennessy drinks business be combined with those of GrandMet and Guinness to create a single drinks giant to be listed in London and Paris.

However, George Bull, chairman of GrandMet, and Tony Greener, his Guinness counterpart, dismissed the plan as "a complicated and costly break-up of GrandMet and Guinness in order to leverage LVMH into a dominant position in what would already be the world's leading spirits and wine company".

While agreeing to a full analysis of the scheme, they dismissed it as giving M Arnault "back-door control without paying a premium". They added: "It is hard to see how this would be in the interests of our other shareholders."

M Arnault's proposal envisages the creation of three further separately quoted companies to hold Guinness and GrandMet's other busi-

nesses: Pillsbury food, Burger King and Guinness Brewing.

Under the suggested demerger, LVMH would exchange its 40 per cent shareholding in Moët Hennessy, together with its 14.2 per cent stake in Guinness and 6.4 per cent of GrandMet, for a holding of about 35 per cent in the new quoted drinks company. In addition, shareholders would receive the same 60p-a-share payout promised in the proposed merger of Guinness and GrandMet into GMG Brands.

However, no reference was

made to the alternative option proposed on Tuesday that Moët Hennessy could be split up with LVMH retaining Moët champagne and GMG acquiring Hennessy.

Analysts admitted there was some merit in having demerged companies with a sharper focus, but questioned the price that Mr Arnault was demanding. A spokesman for GMG said the details would be examined carefully over the next few days and a formal response drawn up, probably next week. He admitted it was difficult to see a resolution, but added: "Things haven't broken down completely."

A source close to M Arnault described the GMG response as "not very constructive".

Commentary, this page

Paper group warns of painful cuts

By FRASER NELSON

DAVID S SMITH, the paper, packaging and office supplies group, gave warning it will suffer a "painful" process of cost reduction if the pound remains at its current highs.

The company, which generates a third of its business from overseas, said it is relying on a recovery in the French and German economies to return to growth next year. Pre-tax profits fell 23 per cent to £16 million in the year to May 3, on sales that eased 4.5 per cent to £1.18 billion. David Buttfield, finance director, said exchange rates had effectively made the company's paper 25 per cent more expensive in key overseas markets.

All it would take is a 3 per cent recovery in the European markets for the sentiment to change," he said.

Earnings fell to 23.1p (30.3p) a share, after an increased dividend of 8p. A final 7.5p is due on October 1.

Tempus, page 28

Heavy fall in Medeva shares

SHARES in Medeva, the pharmaceuticals company, fell heavily yesterday as it revealed a collapse in sales of Isonamin, the slimming drug previously promoted as one of its most promising new products (Paul Durman writes).

First-half sales of Isonamin dropped to £7 million, a third of the level achieved in the second-half of last year. Medeva blamed £3 million of the fall on distributor running down excess stocks. However, Isonamin sales have also been hit by health fears.

Medeva accepts that a recovery in sales in the short term seems unlikely.

The company will pay its interim dividend, increased by 15 per cent to 1.9p, as a foreign income dividend.

£123 million from the company's stock market value. This was in spite of a 35 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £45.6 million, on sales 23 per cent ahead at £159 million.

The company will pay its interim dividend, increased by 15 per cent to 1.9p, as a foreign income dividend.

Tempus, page 28

Petroleum syndicate seeks £167m

By CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH-BORNEO Petroleum Syndicate is raising £167 million from its shareholders to help to fund a £500 million exploration and development programme in the Gulf of Mexico to extend over the next three to four years.

The 2-for-9 rights issue, priced at 121p per share comes after a £54 million cash call earlier last year.

British-Borneo yesterday announced an asset swap with Conoco. The UK company is acquiring a half share in three Gulf of Mexico blocks that contain the King Kong gasfield in exchange for exploration acreage and some cash. The total value of the exploration acreage and cash is less than 5 per cent of British-Borneo's net assets, worth between £7 million and £8 million.

British-Borneo shares fell 50p to 113.62 and is forecasting a dividend for the year of 8.25p.

Tempus, page 28

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

London lifted to record as Dow sails past 8,000

LONDON yesterday came within a whisker of breaching the 5,000 level for the first time and closed at a high for the third consecutive day.

The record followed another opening surge on Wall Street, which carried the Dow Jones industrial average above the 8,000 level for the first time. The FTSE 100 index responded quickly, surging almost 100 points to touch an all-time high of 4,941.8. It ended +0.4 ahead, at a closing high of 4,942.4. By contrast, the FTSE 350 ended just 28.8 up at 2,373.7. Other European markets were also dragged higher by Wall Street.

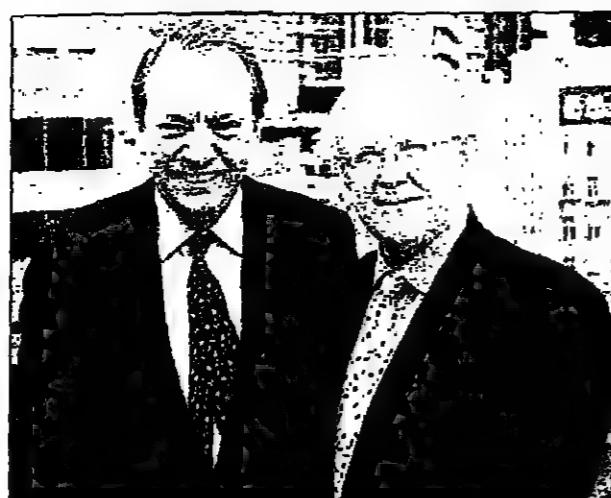
Most of the gains among leading shares were led by the futures market, with the September series of the FTSE 100 trading at a sizeable premium to the cash market, closing at 5,018. Turnover in the cash market was low relative to the rise in the index, with a billion shares traded. Dealers say this indicates that the bull market has yet to filter through to the second and third liners.

The weight of institutional money building up outside the market has made market-makers cautious. They have been caught out too many times to try to call prices lower. Merrill Lynch, the US securities house, which attempted to call the top of the market on Monday has seen the index soar a further 164.7 (3.4 per cent) since then. Its monthly Gallup poll of fund managers indicated that funds were now switching out of equities and into gilts, but there seems to be few signs of blue chips losing their momentum.

Yesterday's gains were underpinned by the surprise drop in average earnings and the reduction in the dole queue to its lowest level for seven years.

Stock shortages among the leaders resulted in double digit gains. ICI continued to reflect on this week's disposal of its bulk chemical business with a rise of 22p to 910p. There were also gains for BOC Group 32p to £10.94, GKN 20p to £10.36, Zeneca 67p to £22.65, Railtrack 22p to 753.1p, and Next 27p to 773p.

The market was underpinned by another soaring performance from the banks, where stock shortages are becoming acute before the interim dividend reporting season. Leading the way again was HSBC, up 65p at £21.51, after strong markets overnight in the Far East and talk of a possible share split. Takeover favourite Abbey National put



Woodward, left, and Heinemann boosted Nelson Horsley

on 23p at 879.1p. Barclays rose 31p to £12.82, Lloyds TSB 19p at 716.5p, NatWest 21p at 874p, and Standard Chartered 38p at £10.38. Among the newcomers, Woolwich firmed 11p to 300.4p and Halifax 34p to 760p.

The water companies were also in demand, with Thames up 22p to 704p, South West 22p to 821p, and United Utilities 19p at 774p.

PowerGen rose 18.4p to 797p

and Scottish Power 20p to 461p as market-makers attempted to unwind positions built up after the abolition of tax credit on Advance Corporation Tax in the Budget.

The City was unconvinced

of the strength of the stock, with a jump of 22p to 556p after some bullish comments to shareholders at the annual meeting about current trading. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, remains bullish of the stock.

News of a bid approach hoisted Nelson Horsley, where David Woodward is chairman, 50p to 179.1p. Forbes, the South African risk management group of which Paul Heinemann is chief executive, is making an agreed bid of 185p a share, valuing the insurance broker at £84 million.

GILT EDGED: Prices rallied on the back of the better than expected average earnings numbers with prices climbing by almost 5% among longer dated issues. Index-linked issues also had a better day reflecting those heady gains on the equity market.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt rose 12.7p to £114.16/16 as a total of 67,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on 57.1p to 110.95, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £114.32 better at £102.17/18.

NEW YORK: The Dow industrial average made a mighty stride past the record 8,000 level in early trading, while technology stocks roared to fresh highs. At midday, the Dow was up 42 points at 8,019.

FALLS: Microgen ... 118.4p (+31p); Medeva ... 225p (+34p).

Closing Prices Page 31

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A generation ago, money-purchase pensions that relied wholly on investment returns had a terrible reputation. Typically they had been invested for safety in government gilt-edged stock, most of whose value had been lost to inflation and higher interest rates. Lots of people on modest incomes who had put in small sums for decades discovered that they had little to show for it. They had to rely on the State.

Post-war generations would not fall into the same trap. To public acclaim, such meagre poor people's pensions died out. So far, it seems, they are going to be resurrected for all. This week's attempt by the Director-General of Fair Trading to lay down a rigid new pattern for private pensions exemplifies the 1990s' compulsion to muck about with the serious business of providing for retirement.

First came the scare about a demographic timebomb, later exposed as no more than a pretext for the Tory Government to cut state pension provision even further. With state provision falling and

the misconceived state earnings-related scheme headed for history, the hunt was on for low-cost invested pension plans for the large minority of lower earners and part-timers who had no occupational pensions at all.

Expensive tailor-made personal pensions, aggressively mis-sold to people who could not afford them, put many off private pensions for life. Sir John Amson's Retirement Income Inquiry, sponsored by the National Association of Pension Funds, wanted a compulsory national second-tier pension fund between the state pension and voluntary occupational funds. Others want to resuscitate industry-wide occupational schemes.

Under Peter Lilley, the Department of Social Security calculated that any money-purchase replacement for Serps would cost too much for the relatively small individual sums likely to be invest-

ed in it. So Mr Lilley proposed privatising the whole state pension to make the sums add up, with a fallback state guarantee. This required new generations to give up tax relief on contributions, undermining occupational schemes.

Labour toyed with various schemes in opposition, then promised an inquiry, due to be announced today. Gordon Brown's Budget meddling has already made its task far harder.

His dividend grab cut investment returns, making it nigh on impossible to design a cost-effective Serps replacement. By cutting the tax advantage of pensions as a savings vehicle, and showing this could happen again, it has undermined public faith even more. More employers will now close final-salary schemes. In an unstable society, this makes sense in theory, except that, in practice, final salary schemes usually still

deliver better pensions for long-standing employees than lower-cost defined contribution schemes. The OFT appears to think that both kinds of scheme fleece the public. This will not help to rebuild confidence. Its solution is to devise a new template for pensions that will make investment returns the same and focus consumer choice on cost. A consumer watchdog has

no business designing new financial services products. To do so undermines its credibility as fatally as the Consumers' Association launching its Which? credit card.

The competition authority has come up with the fallacious argument companies always use to justify monopoly. Why waste money duplicating different models and spending vast sums marketing in competition with rivals?

The OFT utility pension relies on puerile top-down academic analysis. Most pension funds fail to beat the average investment performance. Therefore, money spent on trying to do so is wasted and most fund members would be better off without any investment management. The research paper on which this depends, relying on efficient market theory, says that any claimed skill at timing switches between securities and cash "relies on the assumption that

professional managers possess insider information [potentially illegally obtained]."

On such intellectual foundations, OFT experts recommend a standard minimum cost pension scheme that tracks the share index, investing proportionately in the stocks that make up it. Such index funds often give good value for money. That is why competition has made tracker funds popular. But picking stocks is only one aspect of investment management. Allocating funds between UK shares, gilt-edged, foreign equities, corporate bonds and cash is important.

Any fund that sets today's investment ideas in stone for 40 years ahead is asking to be as big a disaster as the old funds that invested only in gilt-edged. In 15 years time, bonds may be a better investment than equities. And it would be foolish to restrict any-

thing beyond a low-grade basic scheme to UK investment, even if you could under EU law.

Index funds need to be a minority sport. If the majority of pension money were invested that way, the index would soon become hopelessly distorted and manipulated. Without flexibility, ethical investment choices, smaller stocks and the venture capital industry would wither away as their main source of capital dried up. And specifying a tracker fund begs the question of which index to track: the FTSE 100 top shares, some world index of blue chips or an "all-share" index that still covers only a minority of stocks.

The Government inquiry should realise what damage is done by tinkering. Today's young people face compulsory savings in an inflexible vehicle whose chief virtue is tax relief. Once their savings have been seized, they can safely bet that successive Chancellors will remove the reliefs. Unless the Government is careful, ordinary people will become as keen to avoid pensions as taxes.

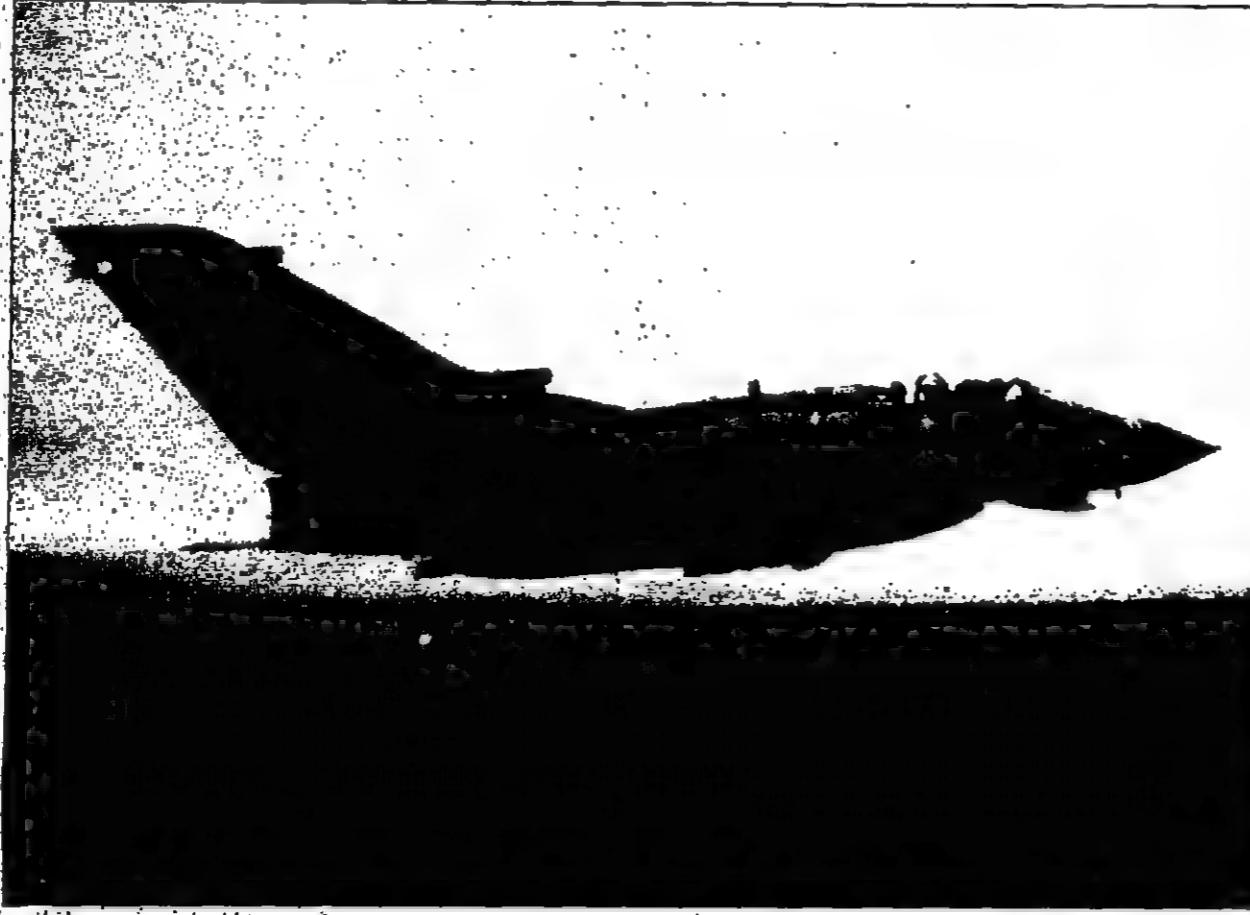
Hands off our private pensions



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Difficult customer reaches out to arms of Western capitalism

Oliver August looks at the way Britain's links with Saudi Arabia are growing



Sales of the Tornado aircraft are expected to fizzle out but BAe hopes to persuade the Saudis to buy the Eurofighter

If one placed all British trading partners in one classroom, Saudi Arabia would stand out as a highly gifted but difficult pupil. The desert state has been one of the UK's most lucrative export destinations over the past decade. But at times it has also been one of British industry's most awkward clients.

The £20 billion al-Yamamah arms-for-oil deal, struck by Margaret Thatcher in the mid-1980s is still the largest ever UK export agreement. Millions have flown into Treasury coffers and hundreds of British Aerospace jobs have been created with every Tornado aircraft flown to a desert base.

Many British businesses, however, feel reminded, of Communism: Eastern Europe when they go to Riyadh. Secrecy is intense, the bureaucracy unrelenting, and almost all business is conducted directly through the State and influenced by its ideology. It was with some surprise, therefore, that exporters gathered yesterday's Confederation of British Industry forum to discuss Saudi trade which included a host of high-profile Saudi figures – and they all arrived in lounge suits rather than white robes and traditional head dress.

Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, is reaching out to Western capitalism. The royal family around the ailing King Fahd is visibly pleased with its close co-operation with UK companies and now wants to invite in more. Last year alone, British exports to the country grew by 30 per cent to £2.5 billion. Proudly, the Saudis tell their new business partners about their 1 per cent inflation rate in what has become an economic virility test.

Chairing the forum, His

Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Faisal bin Turki, said: "We welcome as much contact as possible. In the future, there will be more opportunities to participate."

The same note was struck by Lord Clinton-Davis, the Trade Minister, who said: "Saudi Arabia is a very important market for us. Growth looks set to continue this year. We want to maximise exports through the al-Yamamah programme."

Prince Abdullah, had said: "The Saudis are quite conservative. We only discovered the 20th century in the 1950s. Lord Clinton-Davis retorted: "I hope you are referring to small conservatism, as you did grant me a seat on Labour's victory." Relations are not always so easy and good-humoured.

To help UK companies, BAe and the Ministry of Defence operate a trade development agency called the British Offset Office. They are using their local expertise and contacts developed over the past decade to open the door for the rest of British industry. Banks, investors and consultants are on

hand to give confidential guidance on how to deal with the Saudis. Companies such as Shell, Glaxo, Tate & Lyle and BP have been beneficiaries.

BAe has also become involved in the programme as an underwriter for other UK companies. Steve Mogford, managing director of the systems and services division, said: "This is a new scheme we are putting in place under the al-Yamamah programme." BAe will guarantee a Saudi loan to a fellow company that is investing in the kingdom. The maximum value of the loan is £6.25 million.

But there are further complications for British exporters. To join the programme, companies have to fulfil certain criteria. Projects are to be joint ventures with Saudi companies. They have to add up to an investment of at least £10 million. And most importantly, technological skills and knowledge have to be transferred to the local community. Consequently, BAe alone employs 1,500 Saudis to assemble aircraft instead of doing so in Warton, Lancashire.

The Saudi employees are assisted by 3,500 British engineers, accountants and pilots permanently stationed around the Arabian peninsula. BAe seems to find it difficult to employ enough UK personnel to man the desert outposts. It continues to advertise for military recruits in the RAF newsletter.

A BAe recruitment document obtained by *The Times* paints a hilariously rosy picture of the conditions in the kingdom. It says: "Even though Saudi Arabia does not have a tradition of public entertainment facilities in the cities, you will never be short of ways to spend your leisure time. Obviously the question on most Saudi

watchers' minds at the moment is whether the heart of the al-Yamamah deal, the sale of military aircraft, will maintain its momentum. This would give an enormous boost to all UK exports to the country."

Barnaby Wiener, analyst at Merrill Lynch, wrote in his latest BAe report: "The second deal of al-Yamamah was initiated in 1993 with the order for 48 further Tornados. The current order backlog is around \$3.5 billion, nearly half the total defence order book."

The export of Tornados will fizzle out next year. BAe's ground support is to continue, but earnings will decline. Now BAe cannot wait to sell the Saudis its latest toy, the Eurofighter, under another al-Yamamah order deal.

Ever the difficult customer, the Saudis have adopted Mrs Thatcher's successor's motto: wait and see.

Casual slip

HIGH fare at the High Court Casuals, the bid-plagued women's wear chain, has settled the court action brought by former chairman John Shannon. This will be formally announced this morning. But the terms of settlement will not be announced, because both parties have been silenced by a confidentiality agreement. Shh. Nobody must ever know.

Except those present at the High Court yesterday – and readers of *The Times*. The lawyers acting for Country Casuals blurred the details out before they could be silenced

by those acting for Shannon. He was suing for unfair dismissal and full payment of his two-year rolling contract after his departure in September 1994, which was followed by a bid for the company by his vehicle. My spy in the courtroom says Shannon, who led the initial buy-out of Country Casuals in 1989, didn't get a bean, and was hit with a £20,000 bill for costs. But don't tell anyone I said so.

FROM the bulletin to all employees of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan about progress towards the merger: "Apologies to Spanish-speaking markets who received a misleading translation of the comments made by Euan Johnson and Jack McGrath about the location of head offices for Asia and Latin American regions in *Merger Bulletin*, no. 6. The translator misinterpreted the words 'they will be run out of Hong Kong and Miami': as 'they will be chased out of Hong Kong and Miami' with the result that 'the Spanish version said the exact opposite of what was intended.'

Short cut

A VERY nasty punch-up in the secretive world of headhunting



New Parker

A PUZZLED City woke up yesterday to read in a rival paper that Alan Parker, head of the Brunswick PR concern that has just taken over the British Airways account from Lowe Bell, was a "long-time Labour supporter". This is "long-time" as in "ever since May 2 this year," surely? Plenty of those around. Brunswick says its policy is that the senior partner should not be politically aligned. My impression is that Parker is something of a Blairite these days – which makes him anything but a long-time Labour man, I would have thought.

FORTUNE OIL has inserted a curious condition into the option to take new shares granted to Barry Cheung, its clean-living chief executive. Shareholders at the extraordinary meeting of the oil trader on Monday will have to vote on a clause that requires the option to lapse if Cheung's employment is terminated in certain circumstances, "for example serious misconduct, persistent insobriety (?) or death".

Celtic call

FORGET the abrupt plunge in BT's shares last week after a surprise profit warning from MCI, the American phone company. BT is trying to bring the result that 'the Spanish version said the exact opposite of what was intended.'

ive pay and awards scheme at the merged company, among the most lavish on the planet. What aroused the greatest passion at BT's annual meeting in Edinburgh yesterday was phone boxes and phone directories. One articulate albeit pedantic investor complained that the Welsh signs in BT's phone boxes in Wales – the translation of the & to be specific – did not make Celtic sense. Another complained, also at length, that names in the Edinburgh phone directory were not always listed in alphabetical order. Sir Ian Vallance, BT's chairman, listened with reasonable patience. He clearly could not believe his luck.

MARTIN WALLER



Sir Ian Vallance got off lightly at BT's annual meeting in Edinburgh

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Giving technical leadership

David Perry sets out the challenge alongside his vision for the future

THE English ICA has always rightly prided itself on the quality of its technical output and it has a long tradition of contributing to the development of thinking and technical standards across all areas of chartered accountants' work. Much is done by unpaid volunteers working in business and the practising firms who are on the support and leadership of the full-time institute staff.

Having had about six weeks to begin to understand the vast range of technical activities undertaken within the institute or co-ordinated by it, I am now better able to pull together my vision for the future.

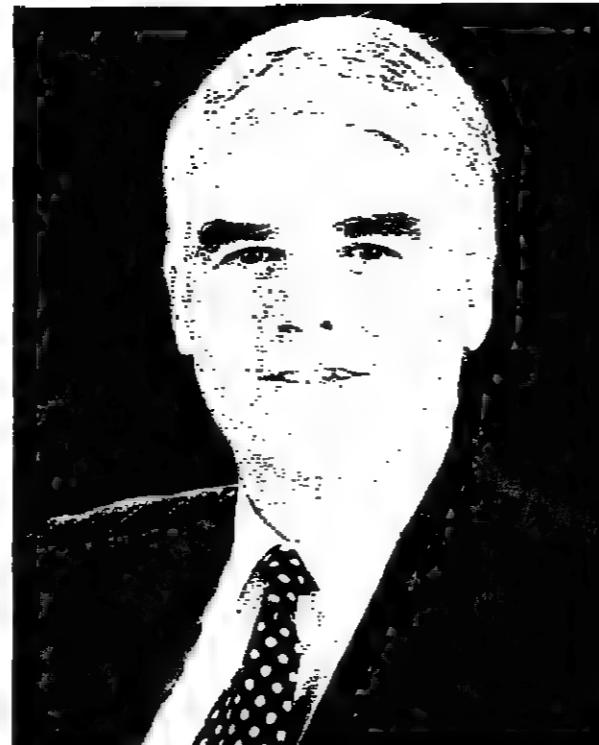
Broadly, I believe the Institute has a duty to provide a clear and relevant technical leadership, with the aim of continually raising standards and knowledge. It represents members in different constituencies whose interests do not always coincide. The concerns of the largest auditing firms for example may not be the same as those of the smallest: the concerns of finance directors and chartered accountants working in business generally are often different or opposed to those of members in practice. The focus of technical activities must recognise differences and aim to provide support for all members.

While recognising the desirability of seeking agreed submissions to the international debate through the use of Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB) committees, I am aware that this has resulted in the institute's own voice not being clearly heard. The institute should also publicise its own views alongside those of the CCAB.

As members working in business comprise about half the membership of the Institute, more effort needs to be extended to provide relevant technical support to those engaged in the management of finance functions.

The institute cannot be complacent in the technical area. It is important that there is perceived value from its technical activities which must be focused on what members need to help them in their daily work, as well as being sufficiently far-sighted and radical so that the institute is seen as being a valuable contributor to the formulation of law, standards and policy by government, international bodies and standard setters.

We should not just represent the views of members — a difficult enough task given the size and disparate views of the membership — but also take positions on technical issues in cyberspace this year at which the issues will be discussed.



David Perry welcomes contributions to the debate

Some particular areas where the institute should take a lead include:

- Corporate accountability and reporting on the Internet — the use of the Internet for making corporate information available poses many questions for preparers and users of financial statements. The institute is to host a conference on corporate accountability in cyberspace this year at which the issues will be discussed.

□ The introduction of the euro. This will have a significant impact on British companies, whether the UK is in or out of the first phase. The issues are not fully understood and despite the best efforts of the DTI and the UK 100 group there remains vast ignorance of its effects and what needs to be done to prepare.

- The Year 2000 issue (or "millennium timebomb") is well recognised as a threat to

many businesses. The institute is already providing much help and advice to its members through the Faculties of Finance and Management and Information Technology. The technical department is actively working to coordinate institute activities and to provide practical advice to members, to alert them to the problems and to assist in finding workable solutions.

□ Fraud is an increasing cost to businesses. The recent successful conference on fraud at Montague Place has led to the plan to set up a Fraud Advisory Panel, which will be organised by the Audit Faculty.

The next three years are likely to pose many challenges for those contributing to the technical agenda. Apart from the impact on the institute, they will affect standard setters with the move to increased use of international accounting and auditing standards. The institute is well placed to respond to these challenges, but must remain alert and focused on the important issues. Part of my role is to ensure that it does so and I welcome comment and advice from all those with an interest in contributing to the debate.

David Perry was appointed Director of Technical Development and Promotion at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in May. Previously he was a partner at Arthur Andersen, and spent two years at the firm's Moscow and St Petersburg offices.

Contrived measure

NOTHING in the world of tax legislation ever becomes simpler. Even the categories of the ways not to pay tax are expanding. Blackstone Franks, the enterprising small accounting firm, has come up with a new one in its Budget commentary.

"It is interesting and worrying," it says, "that alongside tax avoidance, tax evasion and tax mitigation as ways

not to pay tax," the Chancellor "has discerned a new category of 'contrived tax planning'."

Accountants naturally resent all this. They know that it is going to be the lawyers who clean up when legal definitions and clarifications are required.

Valentine's day
IF THE description is not a

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

contradiction in terms, it should be obvious who is the happiest Scottish chartered accountant this week.

Ian Valentine, institute council member and senior chap with BDO Stoy Hayward, is also captain of the Royal Troon Golf Club just down the road from his Ayr office. And that is where the Open Golf Championship gets under way today.

TONY RING, one-time president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, was out drumming up custom for his other enthusiasm last week.

At the relaunch of the P.G. Wodehouse Society it was urging all and sundry to join. With everyone from the Prime Minister to Alan Coren

as newly installed patrons, he was in good company.

Wodehouse's granddaughter sang her grandfather's songs, and Ring offered to demonstrate the Swiss exercises with which Wodehouse started each day.

These came from Wooster Souse, the society's newsletter, which Ring now edits. All enthusiasts are invited to join and should call either 0171-230 5347 or Ring himself on 01494 864848.

ROBERT BRUCE

Court of Appeal

Curate cannot be an employee

Diocese of Southwark and Others v Coker
Before Lord Justice Stauthorn, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Mummery
Judgment July 11

An assistant curate in the Church of England was not an employee for the purposes of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 and accordingly an industrial tribunal had no jurisdiction to hear his complaint of unfair dismissal.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by Dr Coker against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (*Times*, April 4, 1996; [1996] ICR 849) on an appeal by the Diocese of Southwark, the Bishop of Southwark and the Diocesan Board of Finance from the decision of a South London industrial tribunal chairman (Professor R. W. Redman) ([1995] ICR 53) on a preliminary issue of law, that the tribunal had jurisdiction to hear Dr Coker's claim that he had been unfairly dismissed when he was removed from the diocesan payroll in May 1994 after working as an assistant curate since December 1993.

Mr Joseph Hage for Dr Coker; Mr Paul Goulding for the appellants.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the question on appeal was whether, while he was an assistant curate at St Luke's, Woodside, from December 1993 to December 1994 and at St Philip's, Cheam Common, from December 1993 to May 1994, Dr Coker was an employee for the purposes of the 1978 Act, now the Employment Rights Act 1996. If he was, he had the right not to be unfairly dismissed and by virtue of section 54(1) of the 1978 Act an industrial tribunal had jurisdiction to hear the complaint.

The original respondent to the application was named as the Diocese of Southwark, within which both St Luke's and St Philip's parishes were situated. However, the diocese, which was under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Southwark, had no capacity to sue and accordingly the appeal tribunal had ordered the bishop and the Diocesan Board of Finance, a limited company which paid Dr Coker's stipend, to be added as respondents.

The appeal focused on three questions: (i) Did Dr Coker have a contract at all? (ii) If so, was it a contract of service? (iii) If so, who was the employer? In his Lordship's judgment, the critical question was the first one.

Mr Hage made four points in

support of his argument: 1. If, as the appeal tribunal had held, Dr Coker was not an employee, then it followed that not only did he not have rights under the 1978 Act but also the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, the Wages Act 1980 and health and safety rights. Mr Hage asked rhetorically: why should that be so?

2. Earlier authorities relied upon by the respondents involved various justifications for members of the clergy not being employees, but there were only really two points which were that an assistant curate was an officer-holder and the duties were spiritual.

The chairman of the industrial tribunal, having referred to *Barthorpe v Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance* ([1979] ICR 900) which concerned non-conformist churches and submitted that the precedents did not prevent the court from holding that there was jurisdiction to entertain Dr Coker's claim. In enacting rights, Parliament had not expressly excluded the clergy and a modern approach needed to be taken.

In his Lordship's judgment, the question was as follows: that not every agreement constituted a binding contract there had to be a contractual intent and to be objectively ascertainable; in some cases, there was no contract, unless an intention had been established, such was the present case.

3. The respondents' position was indefensible in principle or on policy grounds since all elements of a contract were present.

4. Mr Hage invited the court to distinguish earlier cases, all of

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LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said the applicant had requested judicial review of the magistrate's refusal to state a case and an order of mandamus that he be required to state a case.

His Lordship considered the preferable approach was in fact the true issue of the case and requested judicial review of the legality of the conviction on October 23. The parties agreed and proceeded to that basis.

The statement of Lord Wiggyerly in *R v Lynn* ([1971] RTR 369, 370) "The first point which was taken below but is not taken here was that since the initial disqualification of December 3, 1969 was subsequently set aside on appeal, the act of driving on December 8, 1969 was not a breach of the law at all, in other words, it did not amount to an offence. That argument has not been pursued in this court, and rightly so, because it seems to us perfectly clear... that that is an untenable argument. Although the

disqualification was later removed, it was effective on December 8, 1969 and for the appellant to drive while disqualified although the offence to which the disqualification related had been quashed.

During the period of disqualification, he was twice stopped while driving and charged, inter alia, with driving while disqualified. On September 25, 1996 his appeal against the convictions of June 17 was successful and the convictions were quashed.

Lord Justice Ward agreed.

Solicitors: J. D. Spicer & Co., Edmonton; Crown Prosecution Service, Thames Street.

Mr Justice Morris QC and C. Reid for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving

the judgment of the court, said that the beginning of the trial the applicant had dispensed with his counsel because he wanted his solicitor to continue and he did not want his legal aid certificate revoked.

The judge refused to adjourn but said that he would amend the legal

Papers shatter myths about evil empires

THERE has always been an uneasy relationship between academics and practitioners. The academics argue that accountants in business and practice never think but just power ahead with the bottom line in focus. Accountants in business and practice take the view that academics exist in a featherbedded never-never land and, on the few occasions that they come into contact with the business world, tend to savage it unmercifully.

Neither view is true. Both sides like to keep the pretence going, but on the evidence of this week's annual conference on financial accounting and auditing research, funded by the English ICA, it is going to become increasingly difficult. It opened with Chris Swinton, the institute's deputy president, suggesting the distance between academics and practitioners was "a great weakness in the profession".

But hardly had he sat down when we heard from the first two research papers that the large accountancy firms were doing a good job and were reckoned to be pretty independent in outlook. In the past this would have had academics falling off their chairs in disbelief. Traditionally the view has been that large accounting firms were good for a bit of funding but, that apart, were evil empires.

First, Peter Moizer, of Leeds University Business School, delivered his paper on company directors' views on the performance of their auditors. Moizer carried out a similar survey in 1987, based on the views of the finance directors of The Times Top 1,000 companies. Now, with a survey in 1996, he has updated it and can show trends over what has been a turbulent decade for accountants. The key point is that it destroys many myths. One is that finance directors hate their auditors. It is assumed, from anecdotal evidence freely available in the bar after any conference on financial reporting, that auditors are a waste of space and, but for a statutory requirement, no one would submit to an audit. Yet Moizer's research tells a different story. Both 1987 and 1996 surveys show the performance of auditors to be rated highly and that views had hardly changed. Top of the satisfaction list was the technical competence of audit partners and bottom of the list, perhaps predictably, was value for money, though even that has improved slightly since 1987.

The surveys show that personal contact with the audit partner is rated as the vital factor in success. Oddly enough, in that smaller firms make much more play of being able to provide sensible partner contact, this does not seem to come across in the perception of finance directors, though medium-sized firms seem to score better. In any case small and medium-sized firms have dropped out of the spectrum of the companies surveyed. In 1987 the top firms had 78.8 per cent of the market surveyed and the medium-sized firms had 11.1 per cent. The 1996 figures show the Big Six with 91.9 per cent of the market, medium-sized firms with 5.3 per cent.

Other elements stayed consistent. The average age of the finance directors involved remains at 43 years in both surveys, though the influence of finance directors' backgrounds appeared to have turned a somersault. In 1987 the more time a finance director had spent within an accountancy firm earlier in their career, the less they were likely to be satisfied with their auditors. The 1996 figures show the opposite. For John Kellas, of KPMG, who provided the discussion on Moizer's paper, this was a pleasant surprise, as was the revelation that finance directors had spent, on average, 11 years with a professional firm. This again flies in the face of the perceived wisdom. "The perception is the firms," said Kellas, "is that the good people leave early, yet the survey suggests that stayers do best."

Other quirks stood out. Perception of the Big Six firms was that they were much of a muckness in both surveys. Only two firms stood out — for different reasons. In 1987 Price Waterhouse was pre-eminent in terms of perception of quality. Now it is back among the pack. In the 1996 survey Deloitte & Touche stood out as having the lowest performance rating. Overall the conclusions were that satisfaction with audit partners was "remarkably stable in the period 1986-96 and reflects general satisfaction with the services provided by the audit firm".

Immediately after Moizer's paper more research, this time based on the Irish market, was unveiled. This showed that the Big Six firms were seen as more independent and more reliable than their competitors. It was up to Mike Power, of the LSE, to redress the balance. "Interviewees are unintelligent," he said. "It is almost not worth interviewing people who give the party line." There is life in the old accounting academic line still.

Law Report July 17 1997

Director's offence is absolute

Regina v Cole
Regina v Lees
Regina v Birch

Before Lord Justice McGowan, Mr Justice Collins and Mrs Justice Steel

Judgment July 3

The offence of being a director of a company known by a prohibited name, contrary to section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986, was an offence of strict liability.

The disqualification order envisaged by section 10(i) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 was only one disqualification with a number of different categories rather than five separate categories of disqualification.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing appeals by Philip Francis Cole, Francis Gerard Lees and David Brian Birch against their convictions in July 1996 at Liverpool Crown Court (see *R v Cole* [1996] 1 QB 335) in relation to a parallel provision in section 11 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 which provides: "(1) a court may make an order that a person is so named... as to suggest an association with that company." (2) ... a person to whom this section applies shall not... (a) be a director of another company that is known by a prohibited name if... (b) it is a name which is so similar... as to suggest an association with that company.

(3) Except with leave of the court... a person to whom this section applies shall not... (a) be a director of any other company that is known by a prohibited name if... (b) it is a name which is so similar... as to suggest an association with that company.

(4) If a person acts in contravention of this section, he is liable to imprisonment or a fine, or both."

Equities close below best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.



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that will be remembered for
years to come.**

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			Price	in	in	in
			E	A	B	C
100%				7.00	6	
102%				8.73	6	
105%				14.55	6	
107%				9.02	5	
109%				7.24	6	
112%				13.25	6	
113%				14.16	7	
115%				11.31	7	
118%				9.20	7	
120%				11.34	7	
121%				9.33	7	
122%				6.12	7	
125%				9.02	7	
126%				6.63	7	
128%				7.80	7	
129%				11.27	7	
130%				9.20	7	
131%				7.09	7	
110%				6.00	7.2	
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103%				4.80	7.1	
102%				10.13	12	
96%				4.05	5.0	
112%				2.40	7.1	
97%				6.65	7.1	
108%				7.05	7.0	
112%				8.35	7.0	
126%				9.88	12	
102%				7.31	7.0	
104%				7.65	7.0	

OTHER FINANCIALS			
	Price £	% Chg.	Wk chg. %
017	84½ Aberdeen Asset	.95	
040	140½ Arcoespac	303½ + 11	
260	165½ BMD	125½ + 10	
077	67½ Barry Cal Mkt	70½ + 1	
213	213 Boles Inv	337 + 8	
033	162½ Brunei Dolphin	190 + 1	
062	66½ California	66½ - 14	
050	225½ Camerat	2650	
280	38½ Carter Alum	571 + 30	
073	22½ Charles Taylor	527 + 1	
517	25½ Chelmsford	575 + 1	
250	25½ Close Bros	431 + 7	
060	20½ CTFI Group	455 + 1	
055	45½ EFC	434 - 1	
270	270 Ensign	317½	
218	118½ Hamfrus	222½	
012	112½ Henderson	1305	
515	54½ Investment Co	105	
215	215½ Jersey Svc	217	
193	197½ Jersey Stan	211½ + 1	
079	112½ Johnson Ftr	139½ + 4	
045	46½ Leonardo J	567½	
425	425½ Liberty Int	527½ + 25	
239	239½ Linen Fertiliser	400 + 1	
295	197½ London Parts	307	
185	185½ Lon Soc Brt	87½ + 1	
178	178½ Man DD & Ftr	194½	
1007	1007½ Man G & C	122½	
1172½ Manul	122½ - 16		
113½ Marston	100½ + 5		
2200	Perpetual	2602½ - 10	
500	Provident	502 + 4	
303	303 Rambone Brs	316 - 1	
367	367½ Rea Butler	40½	
	Price £	% Chg.	Wk chg. %
2003-07	120½ T	+ ½	9.77
007	100½ T	+ ½	7.75
007	101½ T	+ ½	7.15
38	114½ T	+ ½	7.85
9	107½ T	+ ½	7.45
010	105½	+ ½	6.74
1	110½	+ ½	7.71
2	117½	+ ½	7.65
12	107½	+ ½	6.27
3	100½	+ ½	7.35
20-15	108½	+ ½	7.31
5	109½	+ ½	7.28
17	117½	+ ½	7.62
11	111½	+ ½	7.17
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250	107½	+ ½	7.21
561	108½	+ ½	7.36
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003	174½	+ ½	3.29
013	109½	+ ½	3.35
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020	132½	+ ½	3.45

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7	20	10.5	185	155* PSF
7	21	10.5	2644	194* Proj. Proj.
7	22	10.5	1475	10* Project Com.
7	23	10.5	172	33* Regional
7	24	10.5	497	106* Ryng. Ed.
7	25	10.5	654	61* Modem
7	26	10.5	654	61* Specific Grdn.
7	27	10.5	120	1* Sanle
7	28	10.5	29	79* Soft Met.
7	29	10.5	124	155* Stakeout
7	30	10.5	220	200* Stough East
7	31	10.5	154	125* Stough West
7	32	10.5	122	95* UK Land
7	33	10.5	233	214* Water
7	34	10.5	210	200* Woodward
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7	47	19.2	413	413 Brater Bros
7	48	19.2	47	35* Budget
7	49	19.2	257	14* Censtar
7	50	19.2	50	41* Dairy Farm Int.
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7	52	19.2	45*	45* Diamond
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51-Marting	5%	1	7
4-FPE	5%	1	7
166-Partland	170%+	2	4
94-Pentland	85%	1	1
78-Petards	180%	1	4
35-Raceland	35%	1	1
32-Richards	35%	1	1
35-SEET	47%	1	1
27-Shewshed (2)	35%	1	12
121-Sherman	13%	-1	1
57-Sherman	5%	1	1
21-Slating Co	35%+	2	11
81-SLX Sales	8%	1	1
167-Unc (Frank)	17%	1	1
77-Wilson	85%	1	1
145-Yorkdale	100%	1	1

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3-East Somer	358	- 3	5.0
3-Hyder	874	+ 8	6.3
1-Hydro Cm Pft	1045	+ 9	6.4
7-Mid Kent Hops	588	- 1	6.5
3-Somers Trent	802	+ 5	6.4
4-South West	2610	+ 25	39
7-South West	921	+ 27	36
7-Temps	764	+ 27	34
11-Whit Unlinked	774	+ 19	60
7-Wisecat	95	+ 45	46
1-Yorkshire	447	+ 3	52

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Cale Bros	785	- 15	1.6
7-Country Sols	184%	- 5	11.1
Dawson Hops	211%	+ 4	28.2
Froesges	40	...	1
Magnelmaier	95	...	0.3
Memory Corp	311	..	1
Pratt Bros	325	..	1
Ranco Fdy	1030%	+ 25	0.1
Stallard Hops	746%	..	31.2
Southern Vodka	72%	..	33.15
Surey Fdys	443%	+ 4	0.7
Trocadero	244	..	1

4

Meeting
a new
master

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

ARTS LITERATURE 35

'It's not books that corrupt'

A novel about heroin has won a prize for children's literature. Nicolette Jones asks teenagers for their reaction to the book

DANCE
Symphony in C,
Giselle
Coliseum

The book was selected from a shortlist that has already stirred media objections (in, among others, *The Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*) to the darkness of its subject which included arm-bullying, and the death of a child on an operating table. A similar row ensued in 1993 when Robert Swindells' novel *Stone Cold* won the Carnegie Award for "an outstanding book for children".

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Some people are clearly worried that a prize awarded during its 61 years of existence, to the likes of Arthur Ransome/Walter de la Mare, Mary Norton and C.S. Lewis, should honour books about these grim subjects. But the truth is that not one of its year's shortlisted books is sensationalising or irresponsible.

It is a mistake to take umbrage without reading them. And the librarians judges of the prize, 13 members of the Youth Libraries Group, insist that this year, as every year, they all read every one of the shortlisted books. These judges are experts in children's books. They know what children actually read, or just what adults think they should. And this year the judges were specifically encouraged to test our books on children: they knew, and consider their responses.

Why were the librarian judges looking for it? At one point, their guidelines say: "According to the genre, the book and the age of the child reader, the plot should be

At the
end of
Junk you
have the
complete
picture

constructive in the sense that ... it produces a sense of having extended knowledge [or] emotional capacity, taking the reader a step forward, even, occasionally, into a disturbed state."

The guidelines also declare that the judges will be "not afraid" of difficult or controversial subjects.

But they add: "We are not looking for political correctness, or issues.

The winner has to be a good book,

over any other consideration."

They certainly do not believe that the books on their shortlist are either depressing or at all damaging to young readers.

And that view seems to be confirmed by the reaction of the children who have been involved in a remarkable "parallel" judging operation set up when the shortlist was announced in the spring. For some eight years the Carnegie has encouraged schools all over the country to "shadow" its adjudication,

inviting them to read and appraise the shortlist and submit their own winner. Many of the schools have made the most of this suggestion, building extracurricular activities around the judging which have gone imaginatively well beyond its brief.

One such school is Wolverley High School, in Kidderminster, Worcestershire, a mixed state secondary. Fifty pupils volunteered to join in the shadowing. 15 (aged between 15 and 17) were selected.

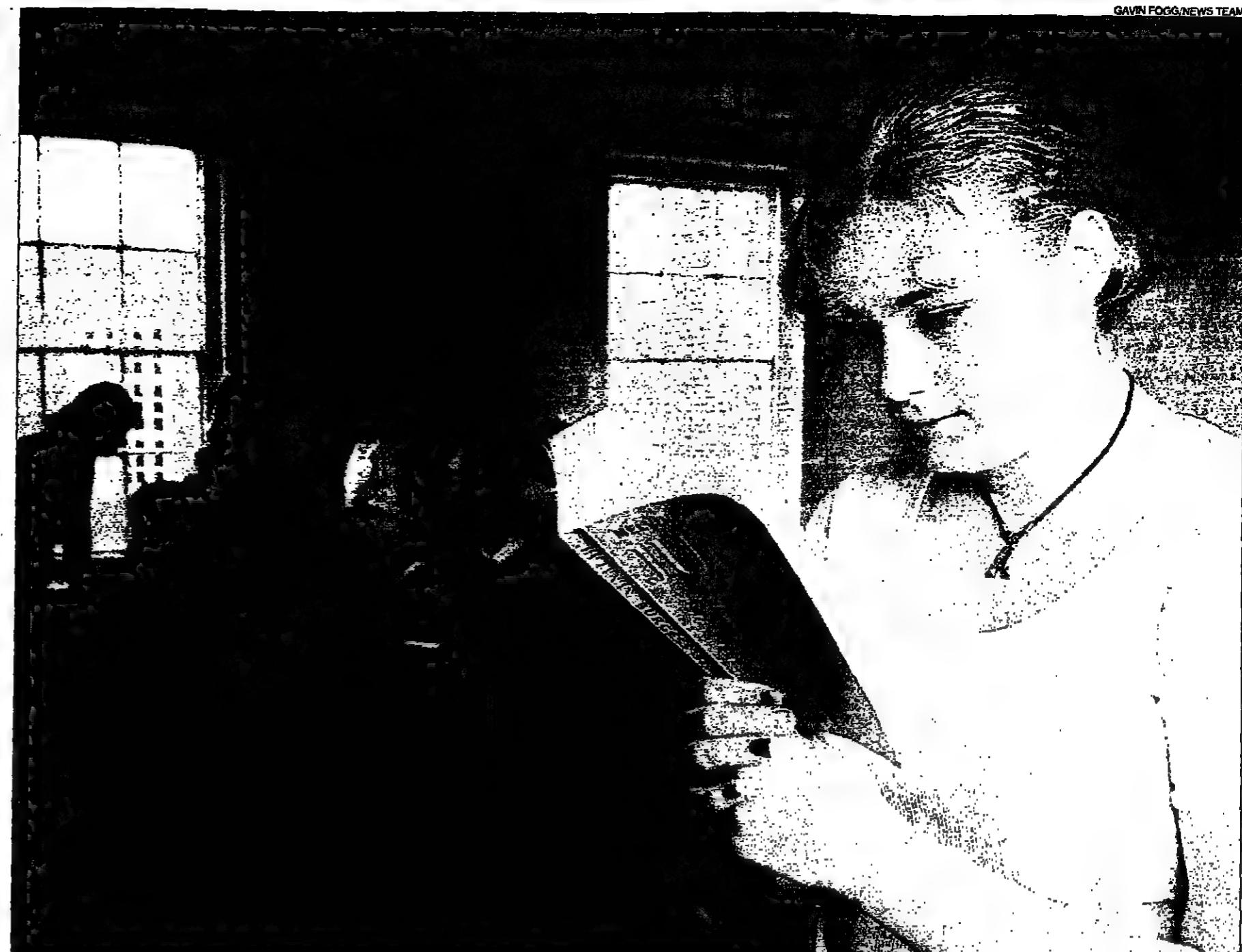
They not only read and discussed the books, they also prepared a dramatic episode from each to perform to Year 9 pupils; who were also then invited to vote for the best book on the basis of the dramatisation. Eighty per cent of Wolverley's Year 9 (15-year-olds, at whom the book is aimed) voted for *Junk*.

By the time the children "shadows" met to choose their own

winner (with highly commended and commended runners-up), they had not only read the books, they had also discussed character, dialogue, themes and plot. They had spent 18 hours of their own free time in rehearsal for the dramatisations. They had thought about the books more than most schoolchildren think about their set texts. And they knew what they liked.

They thought that Elizabeth Laird's *Secret Friends*, aimed at eight to nine-year-olds and all about bullying, "deals with grief really well". This was the book in which a child dies on an operating table. But there was no doubt about which book commanded their universal admiration: it was Burgess's *Junk*.

They loved its multiple viewpoints, its undidactic tone, its



Out of darkness: a pupil at Wolverley High School, Kidderminster, reads Melvin Burgess's *Junk*, about two 14-year-old children who become addicted to heroin

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They loved its multiple viewpoints, its undidactic tone, its

truthfulness. One girl, Andrea, said: "It has to be one of the best books I've read." Several pointed out that *Junk* is an unusual book about heroin addiction, in that it captures what attracts children to drugs — the glamour — and then tells the whole story. "At the end," said another pupil, Janis, "you have the complete picture."

That discussion answered many of the objections to the judges' choice. Did they think 14-year-old protagonists were too young? "We live near Birmingham," said Kerri. "We know that there are 11 and 12-year-olds sleeping rough on the streets there. The drug problem threatens children that young. And the book helped you to sympathise with them."

Is it suitable for children? Kerri thought that very young readers might be upset by some of the scenes. "But adults seem to think that if children don't know about drugs they won't do it. But we do know about it. We get to know from other sources."

Are they any more likely to take drugs because of reading it? "If you read *Junk* you don't have to go and try taking drugs to find out about it," said one pupil. Another felt that reading the book was "so much more effective than having a teacher lecturing you".

Did they think it a potentially harmful read? "Being naive is more dangerous," said Louise. "It's not books which corrupt people," said Janis. "It's other people."

Then they voted unanimously for *Junk* as the outright winner. At that

stage, they did not know that the adult judges would also choose it.

"They'll probably go for something gentler, but if they don't choose if they would be covering up the fact that a really good book could be useful," was one opinion. "Children should be given a chance to think for themselves," was another.

The argument for *Junk*'s merits could not have been put better by the author himself, although he has painful experience of drug abuse at rather closer quarters: his brother was a heroin addict. "I think it's best if children don't hear about drugs for the first time from someone who is trying to sell them some," says Burgess. "Forewarned is forearmed."

He is not alone in thinking this. Anna Lubelska, co-ordinator of the Drug Education Forum at the

National Children's Bureau, says: "I believe that *Junk* should be part of every secondary school's drug education programme."

That is already starting to happen. Wolverley High School is now considering using *Junk* as one of its set texts in the classroom. And one of the pupils on the Carnegie panel has decided to stay on at school, instead of leaving to go to performing arts college, expressly in order to be able to join in next year's shadowing.

The pupils say that the whole experience expanded their range of reading and increased their wish to read for pleasure. It would seem that this year's Carnegie has already been a successful venture in encouraging literacy — and that *Junk* has already done much more good than harm.

Opportunity for reflection

Achingly enchanting though it is, the Lady Chapel at the east end of Lichfield Cathedral does not have the most favourable acoustic for chamber music. It could be worse, however: the back of the high altar is a kind of reflective screen behind the performers and, while much of the sound seeps through the exquisite Gothic carving into the nave or drifts up to the high-vaulted roof, useful and distinctively spatialised proportion of it does not penetrate to the audience.

It depends too on the sensitivity of the musicians involved. If neither Mendelssohn's Piano Quartet in B minor Op 3, nor Brahms's in A major Op 26, was well chosen for the surroundings (one can imagine Messiaen's *Quatuor* here) the Schubert Ensemble of London was very

conscious of the problems. Although the strings could probably have been more assertive in the Mendelssohn to compensate for the attenuation in the sound at the front of the platform, textural clarity was most conscientiously and effectively well preserved.

It is a pity that the 15-year-old composer didn't wait until he was at least 30 before writing what must be the longest finale in all his chamber works, but it was fascinating to hear how much of the mature musician was already formed and already

London, John Woolrich's piano quartet, *Sesilia*, turned out to be ideally written for the circumstances.

The ear, drawn into the atmosphere by the strings, was initially in fear of inappropriate sound from the piano, but the gentle chord clusters associated with its first entry were reassuringly in place. The poetry was sustained to the end, passing through formative but only vaguely defined allusions to music by other composers (helpfully identified by Woolrich as Debussy, Schubert, Beethoven, Schumann and Stravinsky) to a fairly clear echo of the Monteverdi madrigal which not only gave the work its name, but which also fitted it so convincingly to the scene of its first performance.

GERALD LARNER

CONCERT

Lichfield Cathedral

before the *Midsummer Night's Dream* overture

NEWCLASSICAL CDs: Simple opera; fine Weber; Russian piano sensation

Getting the giggles on the ramparts

Jon Higgins

BOIELDIEU
La Dame Blanche
Massif/Fahey/Fouqueray/
Naouri/Iseembel Orchestre
de Paris/Minkowski
EMI 5 5855 2 (two CDs),
£30.99 **

BOIELDIEU'S White Lady is a ghost which stalks the castle rampart at midnight. Inevitably she runs out to be flesh and blood and sings in the soprano register. Add hidden treasure and a few secret corridors to a plot which Scribe cobbled together from a couple of Walter Scott novels, and *La Dame Blanche* becomes opé comique to the odd giggle. Nonetheless it notched up more than 1,000 performances at the Opéra Comique in Paris during their 40 years of life in the 19th century.

That was mainly due to Boieldieu's score: simple and a bit repetitive, but very melodic and highly singable given the right cast. Mfi has turned to the vetter American tenor Rockwell Blake for the high-

lying role of Georges Brown, who returns from the Stuart wars in an amnesia state. Georges recovers his marbles with the help of the Scottish folksong *Robin Adair*, and also gets an attractive aria early on. Blake's voice is past its prime but he has a game shot at a part which really needs a light lyric tenor. Two young French singers are better: Annick Massis (who makes her Glyndebourne debut in *Le Conte d'Ory* on Sunday) as the White Lady, and Laurent Naouri as the villain. Very lively conducting from Marc Minkowski.

ORCHESTRA
Barry Millington

WEBER
Clarinet Concertos 1 & 2;
Concertino: Clarinet Quintet
Kirkiku/Finnish RSO/Oramo
Ode 8952, £14.49 **

CHAMBER
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Piano Transcriptions
Arcadi Volodos
Sony SK 62691 £15.49 **

THE TIMES

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from Times Music Shop, 245 023498

minor and E flat major, along with the Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra, Op 26, can all be heard on this highly commendable disc, in which the soloist is the young Finnish virtuoso Kari Krillikku. His refined tone and virtuosity — the twin attributes mentioned in contemporary accounts of Bärmann — would surely have inspired Weber too: this is playing of quite exceptional quality by a master of instrumentation.

The Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Kirkiku's compatriot Sakari Oramo, Rattle's appointed successor in Birmingham, though by way of a filler there is also a fine performance of Weber's Clarinet Quintet in B flat major, where Krillikku is joined by the New Helsinki Quartet.

CHAMBER
Hilary Finch

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THE TIMES

TREK AMERICA

4

* Worth hearing
** Worth considering
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CHANGING TIMES

Terry Waite looks back in anguish at his time in captivity and reflects upon the issues that lie at the heart of terrorism

Shortly after my release from captivity in Beirut I agreed to be interviewed by Michael Burke for the BBC. We sat together in the library of the Travellers. The conversation turned towards the unusually unpleasant intrigue that had surrounded my attempts and the attempts of others to release hostages.

"Mr Waite," he said. "Was there never a time during your negotiations when you felt out of your depth?"

"Michael," I replied, "There was never a time when I felt in my depth."

Five years have passed since that interview. Ten since the full force of intrigue hit me with a blow that was to propel me back to Lebanon in a vain attempt to retrieve the broken threads of a doomed intervention.

Time is a great healer but the passing of the years does not erase the pain totally. When Hala Jaber, the author of this succinct analysis of the history and development of Hezbollah, first asked to see me I stalled, even though Terry Anderson urged me to see her. Now, with her book lying on my desk for review, I experience the same reluctance to re-visit old memories. Within its pages is a grim black and white photograph of the "Hostage Hilton" in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

This unfinished school, later used as a barracks, was where I, along with other Western hos-

An unbroken circle of violence

HEZBOLLAH
Born with a Vengeance
By Hala Jaber
*Fourth Estate, £18.99
ISBN 1 85702 381 1*

tages, was kept for the first weeks of my incarceration. This one picture brings memories flooding back to me. Memories of double-dealing, deceit and loneliness that was so acute it was almost palpable. I remember, too, the utter bewilderment which I felt when relatives of yet another Western hostage would come to see me at Lambeth Palace in a desperate attempt to get someone to do something on their behalf.

Mrs Jaber notes that a total of 17 different phantom claimed responsibility for the abductions ranging from "Islamic Dawn" to "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine". That was one of the first problems I had to tackle. Who exactly was responsible for the abductions? Was there one overall group operating through a series of interdependent units and in pursuit of a common goal, or was it simply a series of kidnappings organised by groups with either a loose attachment, or no attach-

ment to one another?

When finally I was able to establish face-to-face contact (albeit blindfolded) with a group of the kidnappers, they would only admit and supply evidence that they held a small group of American hostages and certainly would not tell me whom they represented.

In tracing the history of Hezbollah, Mrs Jaber, with her first-hand expert knowledge of the region, illustrates the multi-faceted strategies deployed by the principal actors in the ongoing drama: Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Palestine, Israel and of course a whole gamut of Western powers. It is this very fact that made, and continues to make, the political problems and consequent disasters facing the people of the region so complicated and difficult to analyse.

In attempting to find an entry point into the problem, certain highly placed informants assured me that the key to the hostage



"Hostage Hilton", where Waite and McCarthy were held

perception of the observer. There is no one "truth" about the situation in Lebanon. The various players acted and interacted one with another and the strands woven across the years have not always made an intelligent pattern.

This difficulty is well illustrated by an interview Ms Jaber conducted with the Shiite doctor who was used by the kidnappers as an intermediary and whom I met on several occasions.

His memory of events in which I was a participant differs radically from my own. Is he telling the truth as he honestly remembers it, or is he suffering from that failure of accurate recollection that unfortunately afflicts all of us sooner or later?

I have no doubt whatsoever that he is totally mistaken and that the more likely reason for his version of events is that he is attempting to paint himself in the best possible light, given the fact that he found himself in such an exposed pos-

ition. Jaber and the reader have no means of knowing. One should recognise that he is not the only person in Lebanon to have "massaged" the facts. This small and not particularly significant event reminds me of what a mire of deception Lebanon was in the Eighties and how difficult it is for anyone to give an accurate rendering of events. The reader needs to keep in mind that in every interaction recorded in this book, a plethora of games are being played out by individuals and groups who have mastered the skills across the generations.

One of the significant values of this book is what it tells us about the growth and development of so-called "terrorist" movements. The author tells us that members of Hezbollah reacted strongly against being called terrorists. Indeed they did and they often told me so. If we take it that the root of the word is terror and that a terrorist may be described as anyone who attempts to further his or her views by the use of coercive intimidation, then perhaps the grounds for objection begin to weaken.

At the end of her informative book Ms Jaber states what she sees as the fundamental issue: "So long as the West and Israel continue to regard the problem [of Hezbollah] as a crusade against terrorism they are in fact denying their own responsibility for fostering the conditions which have rise to Hezbollah, but as long as Israel continues to defy the international decree which calls for the end of its presence in South Lebanon, there is very little hope that their violence will end."

Making a movie of his life

Nicholas Wapshot on the dark secrets of the father of film noir

The reputation of Fritz Lang as a master of early German cinema is largely overshadowed nowadays by his Hollywood years, when he brought psychological depth and visual artistry to a succession of American film themes, including the crime thriller and the western. But while he is revered as the father of film noir — where would Orson Welles have been without him? — it is his German work that ensures his place as a giant of the cinema.

There were other Germans and, like Lang, Austrians breaking startling new ground in the early years of the century, among them Ernst Lubitsch, F. W. Murnau, Georg Pabst and Josef von Sternberg. But few can match Lang's work at its best. *Dr Mabuse, the Gambler* (1922), *Metropolis* (1927) and *M* (1931) are benchmarks in film-making and among Germany's most important 20th-century works of art.

Yet despite Lang's pre-eminence, there has been a reluctance to grant him the credit he deserves. The French critics may love his dark, pulp films, but other Europeans tend to regret that he so quickly assimilated himself into the American way of storytelling, that his Hollywood films rarely give a hint of the full gothic extravagance of his German work. But more damaging to Lang's reputation is the questioning of the events surrounding his departure from Germany under Nazism. He was torn between his mother, who was Jewish, and his wife, who became a party member, and he is accused, at least, of not leaving Germany quickly enough.

Was Lang soft on the Nazis? Did Goebbels ask him to lead the Nazi film industry? Patrick McGilligan's judgement of Lang's behaviour at the most dramatic turning point of his career displays a respect for the truth which few movie biographers attempt. And his verdict on Lang is mixed.

Lang liked to tell a story about his last night in Germany. He was

summoned by Joseph Goebbels to a meeting in the propaganda ministry. Goebbels began explaining why his new film, *The Last Will of Dr Mabuse*, needed a few cuts and insertions to bring it up to Nazi standards. Lang felt intimidated, angry and anxious. Then out of the blue Goebbels asked Lang to head up the Nazified German film industry. Lang avoided making a decision there and then and decided instead he must leave the country without delay. As he sat sweating in his chair, he realised that the banks were shutting. And so, penniless and in fear of his life, he slipped onto the night train to Paris to start a life in exile.

Fritz Lang told the tale as if it were a movie. The setting, Goebbels' cavernous and starkly furnished office, is pure German Expressionism: the plot echoes the heightened drama of the psychological thrillers Lang made his own. But reading the conflicting accounts of the incident brought together by McGilligan it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that Lang was dressing up denial as hyperbole. There is little evidence the meeting took place at all; Goebbels did not think the encounter worth entering in his diary. And far from leaving the country immediately and penniless, it seems Lang took his time arranging his affairs before leaving Germany for good.

While those in Hollywood who remembered Lang from Germany always harboured their doubts about him, his ambiguous brush with Nazism did him no apparent harm in the industry. He worked consistently and well. The subjects handed down to him by studio executives suited him and he always enriched them with a psychological complexity which eluded others. This well-written account of Lang's life does credit to the career as a whole and offers an intelligent and persuasive argument to look again at Lang's films with a feeling of anticipation.

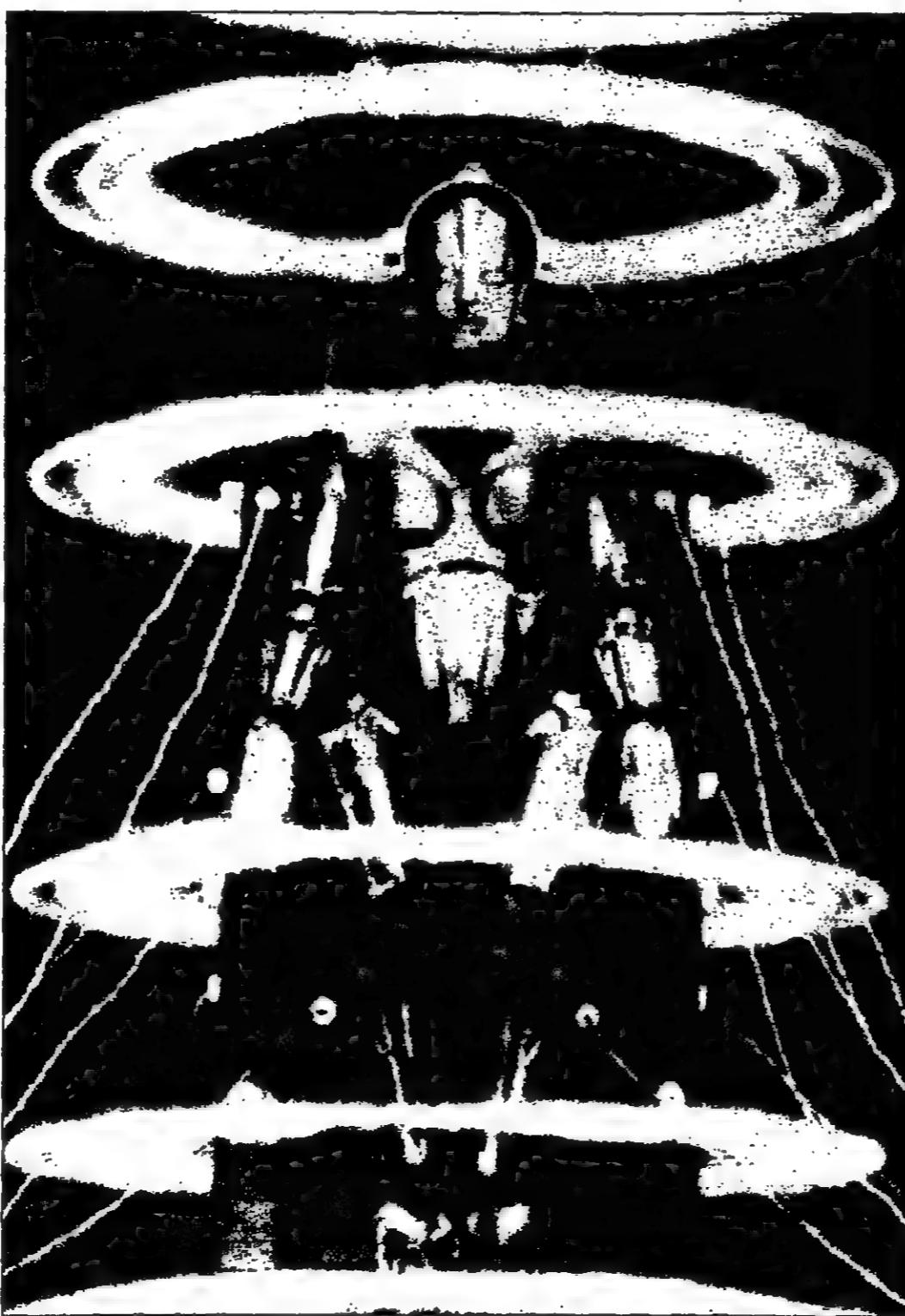
The Bible bashed

Gabriel Josipovici

THE HARLOT BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD
Forbidden Tales of the Bible
By Jonathan Kirsch
*Rider, £17.99
ISBN 0 7226 1209 5*

that Jacob is mean-mouthed and that Simeon and Levi are to be praised for their single-minded desire to avenge their sister. The Bible, suggests Kirsch, in fact offers us two visions of the stranger and two approaches to dealing with him: one that exhorts us to make war, the other that encourages us to make peace and even, as the story of Dinah and Schechem may suggest, make love.

The trouble is that by relentlessly seeking out the sexual implications of what the Bible recounts, Kirsch too often trivialises these stories. This becomes painfully evident in



Metropolis: such scenes influenced a tradition of dark pulp fiction in art, film and video

his retelling of the stories, which is almost embarrassingly banal. Amnon relaxed his grip ever so slightly, then tugged sharply on her arm, and Tamar tumbled headfirst into his bed. He rolled on top of her, pinning her long legs with his own legs and pressing down on her hips with his own hips. Soon, only her head was free, and she whipped back and forth like a snake. The Blame merely has: "And when she had brought [the cakes] near unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, 'Come, with my, my sister.' And she answered him, 'Nay, my brother, do not force me: for no such thing ought to be done in Israel.'

It is not just that the style Kirsch adopts is so Mills and Boonish; it is that the very fact of turning biblical narrative into a modern novel draws us into the psyche of the characters and loses precisely what is so rich, both artistically and theologically, about the spare objective narrative of the Bible.

His mentors, he readily acknowledges, are Harold Bloom, the author of *The Book of J.* and *Jacob*, Miles, the author of *God: A Biography*, both of them books which have the same virtues and failings as his own. His third mentor is Joseph Heller, the author of *God Knows*, that wonderful novel about King David which manages to avoid nearly all the pitfalls of the genre. Interested readers should start there.

Some are less equal

Amanda Craig

PIG TALES
By Marie Darrieussecq
Translated by Linda Coverdale
*Faber, £9.99
ISBN 0 571 19386 X*

undergo a natural metamorphosis during pregnancy: it is what happens inside the head that is more interesting. We are left with a book that has neither the bite of satire nor the swish of pornography.

Eventually, the "poor dumb creature" becomes too porky to joke. She poses for a political poster "Take a perfectly healthy girl... have her gain a smidgen of weight, let her cut and you'll see what I mean"; then disappears, first into the underground, then to a lunatic asylum, while her country erupts in corruption and cruelty. Finding love with a werewolf, she remains unenlightened but eventually prefers to stay as a pig in order to enjoy the country.

As fat is a feminist issue, we may read into *Pig Tales* any number of tiresome messages which, with the rise of models like Sophie Dahl, now look somewhat dated. Women

Dangers of the people's sovereignty

Robert Blake

EDMUND BURKE
His Life and Legacy
Edited by Ian Crot
*Four Courts Press, £3
ISBN 1 85182 306 9*

EDMUND BURKE AND OUR PRESENT DISCONTENTS
By Jim McCue
*Cambridge Press, £14.95
ISBN 0 521 58265 776*

EDMUND BURKE
By Conor Cruise O'Brien
Abridged by Jim McCue
*Sinclair-Stevenson, £12.99
ISBN 1 85019 696 4*

never reached the Cairene. By Diodore's day the political world had changed. Even an adventurer could climb to the top of the greasy pole. But after Burke's famous denunciation of the French Revolution, the Tories and he parted company. It seemed a tot volte-face from all that he had previously stood for. Was not the Revolution a cause for rejoicing among true lovers of liberty — a moment when it was bliss to be alive? Tories naturally detested it, but for Whigs to attack it in immortal language seemed an outrage to who would



Burke symbol of conservatism, now be called the Left? Is czarized by France then as their spiritual descendants were to be in Russia after 1917. Burke predicted than an egalitarian revolution would result in a despotism in the name of The People. He was right.

Of this trio of books the most helpful introduction to Burke is the volume of essays edited by Ian Crowe, which covers fully most aspects of the person whom Dr Johnson described as an extraordinary man. Burke is usually regarded as a Conservative icon. A.J.P. Taylor called him a "vulgarian". But New Labour has sensed to accept a Tory monolog of Burke. Side by side there are clays in his praise by John Redwood and Lord Plant. Nothing could illustrate better the final extinction of British socialism.

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on Saturday:
Lisa Jardine on
Angela Carter

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

Season of betrayal

Jonathan Mirsky wonders just how solidly the Government supported Hong Kong's last Governor in the dealings with China

Jonathan Dimbleby's newest book has caused a sensation in Britain, as did his last... on the Prince of Wales; but this time because of the public rather than the private life of his central figure. The sensation arises from a mighty *accuse*: that some of the best-known men in British diplomatic life — Lord Howe of Aberavon, Sir Percy Cradock, Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, and Sir Robin McLaren — are guilty of "arrogance, cynicism, a dis-honourable conduct...". Britain's reputation there will be indelibly stained by the mark of *appearances*. Most damningly, Mr Dimbleby suggests that Hong Kong "liberal opinion" accuses these men of "betrayal" — which he carefully encloses in inverted commas.

The charge of "betrayal" in a long and elegantly written book, centred on 1986 and 1987 when Britain was faced with Chinese objections to a White Paper looking forward to very modest elections in 1988 for the Legislative Council. The Hong Kong Government decided to test public opinion and discovered that an overwhelming number of people favoured such a small political reform. It then, with what Dimbleby calls "... a breathtaking sleight of hand... designed to suggest the reverse was true... with an effrontery usually only associated with totalitarian states and banana republics", declared to the Hong Kong people that they opposed an election — when in fact 265,078 favoured such one and only 94,565 did not.

This was more or less understood at the time. What Mr Dimbleby states flatly in his book and is utterly base if true, is that Lord Howe, Robin McLaren, and Lord Wilson (then Sir David Wilson), advised by Sir Percy, warned the Chinese that the poll would go against them, and then conspired to rig it. Mr Dimbleby says that London "advised the Chinese informally" that they should instruct their friends in Hong Kong to write to the government polling office indicating their opposition to elections. Chris Patten describes this as "... a pretty peculiar business" and "dopey".

Mr Dimbleby also says that the Foreign Office, astoundingly, neglected to tell the new Governor in 1992, before he arrived in Hong Kong, that two years earlier the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, and the Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, reached an agreement on certain arrangements for future elections. One of these had Mr Patten been told, cast into doubtful legitimacy a section of the Governor's reforms, the very package which caused Beijing to call him a whore.

People in Hong Kong will have the right to wonder after all this, together with Mr Dimbleby's accounts of the Archbishop of Canterbury and his predecessor refusing to stay in Government House because it might anger China, the rows with Michael Heseltine, James Callaghan, Lord Young, Michael Howard, and most of the Foreign Office "analogues". If Chris Patten, during his five years there, had been cut on his own limb — which many in London, at the highest level of

This sounds like a mammoth cock-up.

What seems to me genuine betrayal is something not yet noted in last week's hasty scramble to name the guilty men. In 1993 Mr Hurd invited Mr Patten, less than a year after his appointment as Governor, to return to London and, as Leader of the House of Lords, "help shepherd the Government" and a beleaguered Prime Minister towards the next election.

Mr Patten, "not tempted for a moment", would, however, have returned out of "loyalty and political conviction" if the Prime Minister had "asked him unequivocally...". In 1994, three years before the handover, John Major himself made an improved offer: Leader of the Lords, Foreign Secretary, and Deputy Prime Minister, all rolled into one: "Apart from Major himself, Patten would become the most powerful man in the Cabinet."

What troubled the Governor, who was able to refuse again, was that for the Prime Minister, who always insisted in public that he stood solidly behind Mr Patten, Britain's mission in Hong Kong somehow mattered less in 10 Downing Street than the future of his administration. "For a while Patten brooked on this; it did nothing to cheer him."

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Chris Patten receives the Union Flag, lowered for the last time from Government House in Hong Kong on June 30

government, were striving to do off.

Finally, an unavoidable question hangs over Mr Dimbleby's entire account: can we trust it? He says he had "easy access" to Mr Patten who agreed to discuss "his strategy and tactics at every stage of what was to be a serious and sustained diplomatic crisis". How did Mr Patten, whose authorised memoir in fact is, convince

Mr Dimbleby? Did he show him state documents? During the Legislative Council crucial vote in 1994 on Mr Patten's programme, Mr Dimbleby was present during a discussion of what must have been telephone intercepts only minutes before from Beijing to its allies in the council building.

Mr Patten used to insist

there was not "the thickness of

a piece of paper" between him

and the Prime Minister on

Hong Kong matters. In *The Last Governor* we learn that a very large pantechnicon could have been driven between the two men on a fundamental issue: the need for the Governor to stay at the helm until the midnight of the 1997 handover. As for the rest of the charges, which may or may not traduce men whose honour is precious to them, Mr Dimbleby must now move from allegation to proof.

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It's good to exorcise

David Dabydeen

THE BOUNTY

By Derek Walcott

Faber, £14.99

ISBN 0 571 19130 4

Although at times a bit self-indulgent, the poet is conscious of his unending preoccupation with the sentiment of elegy. He asks his friend and fellow Nobel laureate Joseph Brodsky, who died in 1990: "Joseph, why am I writing this? when you cannot read it?" Of his mother, he asks: "But can she or can she not read this? Can you read this? Mumma, or hear it?" He reflects the "self-importance of despair" in such lines, and in many others in which he echoes Auden's remark on the lonely individualism of suffering and Dylan Thomas's metaphor of the River Rowy which flows on as if it "obliterates hurt".

But while Walcott stresses the continuance of indifferent business as usual in spite of his grief, and while the poetry will sometimes tire with repetition, the metaphors of death are deployed in Romantic fashion to celebrate bounty in all its meanings. He takes his title from a line of Yeats — "the bounty of Sweden" — and indeed, a past criticism of him was that the influence of some

British and European poets was too evident in his verse. He refers to Shakespeare as well as to Dante Alighieri whose *terza rima* verse form of he uses to such perfection in *Omeros* and in Part One of this book. His work draws strength from John Clare, Eliot, Lawrence, Dylan Thomas, Marvell and Synge.

But the greatest influence detected here is of Walcott himself. *The Bounty* rings with repeated echoes of his earlier verse, including *In a Green Night, Another Life, The Gulf and Omeros*, with an abundance of revisited themes and fossil-metaphors. He returns to his repeatedly used linguistic and syntactic metaphors such as "... then winter, where you stand like an exclamation on a page of white ground" and "squirrels spring up like questions". The most important issue, however, is that despite the several other repetitions from the past, Walcott is no longer learning "to suffer in accurate iambics" or rooting for "scraps of favour" as he was in the 1960s. *Bounty* is hardened by the best verse one is likely to find anywhere in the world and even if there are debts to the wider literature, the result is all Walcott's. With originality and confidence, he shapes a craft whose assured excellence, even now, does not cease to amaze.

John Weightman lays Lacan bare

Analysing the analyst

Once at a Parisian dinner party, I heard a lady remark: "Mon fils vient de sortir de son Oedipe" (My son has just got over his Oedipus complex), much as she might have said that he had recently had his appendix removed. This brought home to me the fact that for a surprising number of French intellectuals, Freudianism is not simply an interesting body of parascientific speculation, but a dogmatic system to be accepted as the truth. Consequently, its history, like that of all revealed religions, has been endlessly fraught with doctrinal disputes. No wonder, then, that this extraordinary book about the most flamboyant French neofreudian of the 20th century should read like an account of the schisms in the medieval Church and be redolent with *odium theologicum*.

At first, one might take Ms Roudinesco for an anti-Lacanian, because she paints such a damning picture of Lacan, the man. An unfaithful husband to two wives and a neglectful, capricious father, he was a "womaniser and a libertine", "greedy", "snobbish", "devious" and possessed by "an immense desire to be recognised and famous". But she praises the professional: "Lacan towered over all the members of his own generation in terms of personal charisma, as well as clinical and theoretical genius".

However, she is strangely schizoid, since her book contains ample evidence to contradict this positive view of Lacan's achievement. She doesn't seem to notice that she herself undermines her encomium by frequently demonstrating that he plays fast and loose with Freud and even, as she puts it, "massacres" him in translation. She also shows that many eminent people who came into contact with Lacan or tried to read his big, sibylline text, *Ecrits*, had a negative reaction. He claimed to have incorporated into Freudian concepts derived from, amongst others, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Ramon Jakobson and Martin Heidegger, but Lévi-Strauss refused to comment on his work, saying ironically that he couldn't understand it. Jakobson was careful to keep his distance and Heidegger dryly remarked: "The psychiatrist needs a psychiatrist." I must declare a prejudice: I once attended a lecture he gave, and was so put off by his spasmodic, oracular delivery that I left before the end.

But not everyone is allergic to gurus, far from it. Ms Roudinesco describes how the audience at his "seminars" (his teaching was mainly oral) gradually increased over the years, so that by 1963, when he broke with mainstream Freudianism and founded his own *École Freudienne*, he had an army of

JACQUES LACAN
An Outline of a Life and History of a System of Thought
By Elizabeth Roudinesco
Polity Press, £25
ISBN 0 7456 1523 6

fervent, if quarrelsome, disciples. From being "a brilliant Socrates" in a limited context, he eventually allowed himself "to be worshipped like a god and his teaching to be treated as holy writ".

She blames his followers for this, but was it not a consequence of his own colossal vanity? At an early stage, he developed the maniacal conviction that he was "the only person capable of listening to the true word of Freud". Being both a law unto himself and economical with the

Lacan: lies from the couch?

truth, he disregarded the rules of the International Psychoanalytical Society while claiming to respect them, and so fell foul of various members, including the three major female figures, Anna Freud, Melanie Klein and Marie Bonaparte. His own *École* had a stormy existence under his dictatorial and erratic leadership; well before his death, it had begun to explode into what Ms Roudinesco calls "messianic sects".

In his last phase, when he tried to combine Freudianism with Joycean word-play in the manner of *Finnegan's Wake*, he seems to have become definitely deranged, probably through some physiological deterioration of the brain, due to old age: certainly, the last texts quoted by Ms Roudinesco cannot be described as sane.

Thanks to his celebrity and to the high fees he charged for analytical sessions, and even "non-sessions" (ie, a few minutes in the silent, or near-silent, presence of the Master), he had long been a rich man. In one respect, at least, he conformed to original Freudian symbolism: he preferred to keep his wealth in gold ingots.

Boots Johnson, Daily Telegraph

Philip Hensher, Mail on Sunday

Philip Knightley, Independent on Sunday

A PERSONAL HISTORY
TIMOTHY Garton Ash

The industry's new confederation, launched today, reflects the restoration of its confidence after the 'double dip' recession. Philip Bassett reports

Builders regroup to welcome recovery

Britain's building industry is emerging from the doldrums of the Nineties, boosted by a growing economy and policy changes introduced by the new Government.

Instead of job losses and firms facing closure, the talk in the construction industry is now of demand, new jobs, opportunity and growth.

Sir Martin Laing, chairman of John Laing, says the industry is now out of recession — though he stresses that it was hit harder and for longer than other industries, with construction going back into a slump as other sectors pulled out.

He judges the "double dip" recession to be over now — and is looking forward with hope and confidence.

The building industry will mark this change today with the launch of its new Construction Confederation. In the restored splendour of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on London's South Bank, the major British construction companies will celebrate what they hope will be their own splendid restoration after the rough days of the 1990s — as companies, and as a coherent representative force in dealing with the new Government.

"Historically, the construction industry has done better under Labour governments than Conservative governments," says Sir Martin, who is president of the new confederation.

It is odd, then, that construction companies have been among the most financially generous supporters of the Conservatives. Stressing that Laing's itself does not make financial donations to any political party, Sir Martin acknowledges the point — though industry leaders recognise that because of it, they may well have some ground to make up with New Labour.

Ian Deslandes, chief executive of



Optimistic
Sir Martin Laing

tive of the new confederation, is specific about how construction views the new economy and policy changes introduced by the new Government.

"The first two months can hardly have been better," he says. "For construction, the real difference is that the last two years were so uncertain. Construction is an investment industry, and the uncertainty in the lead-up to the election meant that people investing in construction who were looking for long-term direction couldn't see it."

The industry has been hit hard by stop-go economics, so the Government's strictures against boom and bust economics are particularly welcome. So too are the changes aimed at improving stability, including giving operational independence to the Bank of England.

Gordon Brown's recent Budget also drew plaudits from the building trade. Its emphasis on investment and on long-term growth suits construction firms. The Chancellor's decision to allow the phased spending of local authorities' council house sales receipts will, the industry feels, lead to a regeneration of public house-building — a sector of the construction business hit hard in the Conservative years, and which is still showing few signs of improvement.

Equally, construction bosses like the cut in corporation tax — not just for their own firms, but as a new means of attracting investment to Britain — and the Government's welfare-to-work plans. The industry has seen more than 100,000 jobs go in the 1990s, but the recovery in its prospects means that it will now need to hire new people. Sir Martin Laing told *The Times* this week that the industry will

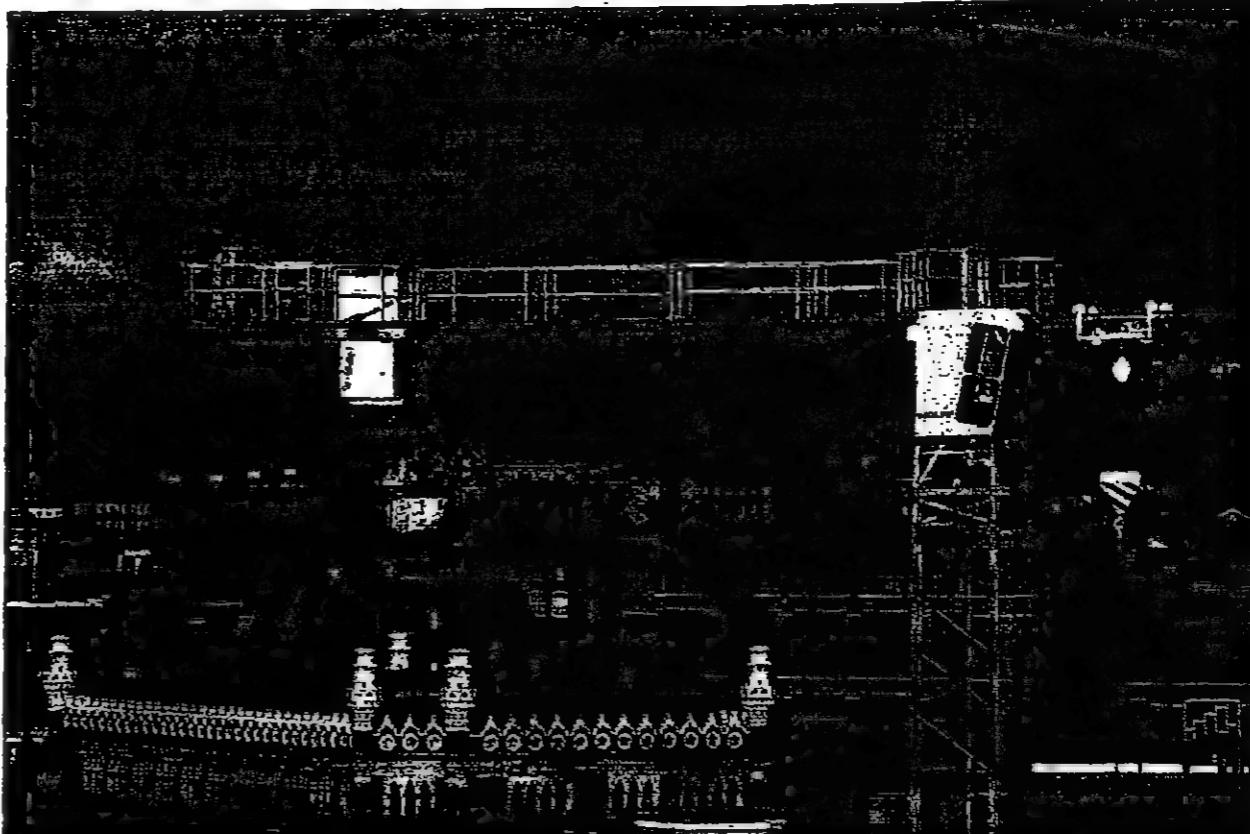
need to hire at least 10,000 people over the next 18 months to two years, and he sees the welfare-to-work programme as something which the industry can support for its own benefit and that of out-of-work youngsters.

Building companies are happy, too, with "their" minister — Housing Minister Nick Raynsford, who is expected to attend today's Confederation launch. As a former housing activist before entering Parliament, he is seen as someone who knows the industry well.

If all this sounds upbeat, it is — though the industry didn't like the increase in stamp duty and the scaling down of mortgage interest tax relief.

Party the optimism is because business in construction is growing, though building leaders such as Sir Martin are sceptical about talk of a housing boom, pointing out that

"Trade associations sound very 19th-century," says Sir Martin. "We have to make sure that what we are in the future is 21st, rather than 19th, century."



Cranes looming over the city tell of the building industry's renewed growth, investment, jobs and opportunities

An industry that's on the up and up

PROSPECTS for the UK's £55.2 billion-turnover construction industry are looking better than at any time over the past decade, Stephen Hoare writes.

An upturn in commercial property, renewed confidence in the private finance initiative, and lottery-funded schemes such as the Greenwich millennium exhibition are among the market forces buoying just about every sector of the industry.

While industry as a whole began to climb out of recession from 1992, it is only in the past year that construction started showing a growth in output. Orders over the past year rose by 20 per cent across the UK. Ian Deslandes, chief executive of

the Construction Confederation, says: "We're in the early stages of a recovery. The next two to three years will see construction growing along with GDP at the modest rate of 2.5 per cent and that is an encouraging prospect."

As economic output grows construction follows. An increase in commercial activity creates the demand for more offices and factories; a rise in consumer spending sparks retail development. With sectors like housing more complex economies are at work. John Stewart, an economic adviser to the Construction Confederation, says: "Private housing is dependent not only on real income growth but on factors like the health of the housing market, the

mortgage rate and the employment situation."

Some of the biggest rises in output have been seen in the southeast of England where private housing construction leads the field with a rise of 15 per cent over the past year and a £1.4 billion turnover. London has seen some of the fastest growth over the past year — notably the 27 per cent growth in infrastructure construction — helped by massive projects like the Jubilee Line extension and the Heathrow Express — and a 22 per cent rise in commercial property development.

There has also been a surge in the private repair and refurbishment sector as commercial premises are upgraded and redundant city-centre office buildings converted to luxury apartments or hotels. The biggest part of this sector's workload is accounted for by small-scale building. Construction Forecasting and Research (CFR) is concluding a survey into the market and estimates activity to be in the region of £12 billion.

According to the Office of National Statistics figures, 56 per cent of all new investment last year was construction related. Construction's share of GDP looks set to grow higher under Labour,

Last month's budget contained welcome news for housing and schools. Local authorities were told they were free to release £5 billion in capital receipts to fund new housing and the refurbishment of run-down stock — a move designed to tackle the £18-20 billion repair backlog in social housing and the 70,000-a-year shortfall in the building of new rented accommodation. Education received a £2 billion bonus, most of it earmarked for repairs to school buildings.

The steady review of PFI led by Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pears Group, and the setting up of a Treasury task force promises to fulfil the last government's target of £14 billion of PFI projects signed up or completed by the end of the next financial year, 1998-99. The decision to go ahead with 14 major hospitals schemes paves the way for a £1.3 billion injection of private capital into the health service.

Added to this, the operation of PFI roads, prisons, government offices, schools and colleges has laid the foundations for a multi-billion pound facilities management (FM) sector — a field the construction industry is set to dominate. Neil Ashley, chairman of construction and FM group Amy, says: "Facilities management is very much what these PFI's are about — the long-term management of an asset."

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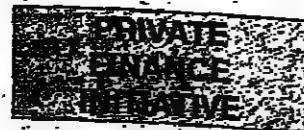
The issue is not whether a company will undergo change, but how successfully it can both anticipate and maximise the opportunities it presents.

Tarmac

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Strength for the future
TAYLOR WOODROW



If there was ever a time in the construction industry, it feared an incoming Labour Government, the speed with which it picked up, and ran with Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) has removed any lingering qualms.

Like the construction industry, it recognises private finance is the only practicable way of providing public services and infrastructure. Neville Simms, Tarmac chief executive and chairman of the Major Contractors' Group, says: "PFI is healthy for Britain and it is healthy for the construction industry".

A founder member of the Government's PFI panel, Mr Simms has been a leading influence in shaping PFI since 1992. Tarmac is one of a clutch of construction companies prominent in the consortiums set up to raise finance, design, build and operate big PFI projects.

He was heartened when the review of PFI led by Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Group, promptly accepted all the industry's recommendations and announced the setting up of a Treasury task force to educate public-sector clients in the process.

The recent announcement that only 14 out of an original 43 big hospital schemes were to go ahead has at least brought certainty to the market, and in the education sector barriers to PFI are quickly coming down.

In future such schemes have to demonstrate a genuine public need and a strong business case.

So can the construction industry deliver? Backed by big financial institutions and equity funds, the PFI consortiums seem to have no shortage of venture capital for schemes above the £20 million mark. Most major contractors have set up facilities management (FM) subsidiaries capable of operating and maintaining schemes once they are built. But contractors could find themselves financing small local-authority schemes unless these can be made attractive to the investment banks.

Mr Simms warns: "Major contractors are prepared to take risks, but if the construction industry doesn't dig into its pockets now to fund the PFI process, it won't happen."

Construction firms have also seen their traditional public-sector workload put on hold as schemes were market tested. Mr Simms reckons that over the past four years £4 billion of public-sector contracts have been cancelled, adding hardship when the construction industry was stuck in recession.

The huge costs of bidding for PFI's speak for themselves. By the time the deal was signed, Tarmac's £15 million bid to build Dartford and Gravesend hospital had swallowed up £2 million — mostly

Outside funds will help boost public works



The Kuala Lumpur railway system in Malaysia is a fine example of joint enterprise

in legal fees and consultancy as well as the detailed design needed to guarantee cast-iron build costs.

This level of costs is a constraint on how many PFI schemes a contractor can take on. Taylor Woodrow is currently handling seven projects at various stages. Director Brian Hendry says: "We don't spend money like this up front unless we're pretty sure of the likelihood of bringing the project to a close. Most of the costs come in the final stages."

With risk comes the reward. PFI offers three new business activities to the construction industry. By taking equity stake in the projects, contractors are acquiring assets that could one day be traded.

Working closer together, public and private sectors can streamline the bidding process, standardise contracts and bring projects quickly to a

close. The construction industry is well placed to identify areas where innovative design can reduce lifetime costs of a building and make operating easier and more efficient. The Government, for its part, has to accept the responsibility arising from future changes in legislation. Mr Simms says: "A partnership between the public and the private sectors means risk is transferred to the party best capable of managing it."

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With risk comes the reward. PFI offers three new business activities to the construction industry. By taking equity stake in the projects, contractors are acquiring assets that could one day be traded.

Then there is the increased design capability and the operating

and maintenance con-

tracts, which look set to provide construction companies' FM arms with assured workloads throughout the 20 to 25-year duration of the PFI concessions. Mr Simms says: "We're expecting each of these operations to make a profit."

But PFI is a global market and one where British contractors earned their spurs. Many, like Taylor Woodrow's £300 million Kuala Lumpur light-rail system, are far bigger than anything Britain has to offer. Mr Hendry says: "If it proves too difficult to get PFI projects to a close in the UK, contractors could turn their attentions overseas."

STEPHEN HOARE



Neville Simms
Major Contractors'

'PFI is good for UK and industry'

Congratulations from one strong organisation to another.

Strength for the future



TAYLOR WOODROW

FOCUS

CONSTRUCTION FOR THE FUTURE 39

Just in time
Amanda Loose reports on new techniques and attitudes in the industry

Satellites come into the picture

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



High-tech: an engineer sites piles via satellite signals

The past few years. Toyota has created a prefabricated house designed to customer specification by computer-aided design, and built by robotic

construction in a factory. They build about 4,500 of these each year."

Many UK builders such as Laing and Bovis have set up their own innovation departments, while the Building

puter-aided design to build a three-dimensional picture of the building as we go along. The computer is cost-effective because we know exactly what we need."

Laing is also looking at ways to simplify construction, using units such as the service chunks of air-conditioning plants built off-site, and delivered ready to connect. Modularisation is another possibility: designing a building in repeatable units, built off-site, with combinations that can be slotted together to create variations.

A Bluewater shopping and leisure complex, which is being built at Dartford in Kent, piles are being positioned by satellite.

Barry Burman of Lend Lease, which is working on construction with Bovis, says: "We have three satellite stations on site, and need four satellites to be in relatively close proximity. The co-ordinates of where the pile must be placed are stored in the on-site computer, and sent as a signal to the satellites."

When the signal comes down, and the co-ordinates lock on, the site engineers, with headset and probe, hear the beep, and mark the spot. This gives an accuracy of plus or minus 20mm."

O'Rourke, the frame contractor at Bluewater, has developed a precasting facility for many of the concrete columns and beams, while a precast shell is made for the load-bearing primary beams filled *in situ*. Mr Burman says this has improved accuracy and raised construction rates by up to 20 per cent.

Building for the 21st century

THE FEDERATION



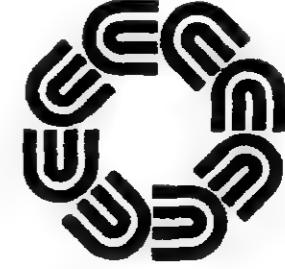
Ian Deslandes

include construction's role in the wider economy; the promotion of public-private partnerships; urgent action to improve the quality and quantity of training; the industry's contribution to the environment and the wider use of partnering in construction.

Specialist departments will drive these policies forward through political and technical representations. These key departments comprise public

affairs, employment, the law, and technology and the environment.

Ian Deslandes, chief executive of the confederation, said: "This new organisation will provide a unified and much more powerful voice with which to speak for one of Britain's largest and most important industries. It will enable construction, which accounts for half of Britain's total annual investment and is the largest single industry employer of labour, to punch its full weight in the quarters that matter. We are creating an entirely new organisation which will anticipate and meet our industry's needs in the 21st century."



Construction Confederation

Speaking for the Industry

The Construction Confederation represents the interests of over 5,000 construction companies who carry out over 75 per cent of the total turnover of the UK construction industry.

Its mission is to promote and secure the interests of building and civil engineering contractors and to provide high quality and cost effective services to member firms to help them improve both their service to clients and their own profitability.

CONSTITUENT ORGANISATIONS

British Woodworking Federation
Civil Engineering Contractors Association
Federation of Building Specialist Contractors
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Major Contractors Group
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National Federation of Builders
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UK firms are heavily involved in Hong Kong's new airport at Chek Lap Kok

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Foreign contracts beckon

Steve McCormack on the rewards for UK firms who have the nerve to venture abroad

British contractors have a tradition of operating overseas. Today, British firms are active in more than 100 countries.

In terms of our international competitors, Britain's construction industry is consistently ranked among the top five. According to the latest figures from the Department of the Environment, total British construction industry exports for 1995-96 amounted to around £10 billion.

Of this total, overseas building and civil engineering contracts secured during 1995 were worth £5.5 billion, 45 per cent up on 1994 and 72 per cent more than in 1993.

However, these figures alone can give a distorted view, as the majority of British contractors have little or no interest outside the home market, and 90 per cent of all overseas income is earned by the top ten contractors. It is now acknowledged that exports must become more important to British contractors if the industry is to avoid the danger of further shrinkage.

According to Sir Frank Lampi, chairman of Bovis, the industry has tended to be too dependent on the domestic market for the past two decades.

"There is some concern in this age of large, privately financed projects that the smaller UK contractors will

only be able to take on a limited number of them," says Alick Goldsmith, director of the Export Group for the Constructional Industries.

This trend is recognised by Frank Kennedy, managing director of Tarmac Construction International. He says: "The wider introduction of lump sum bidding and design and construct contracts mean that

greater risks are now being passed on to the contractor. However, this can also be a good thing for the larger contractors working overseas as the rewards can be higher."

But if British contractors are to succeed in procuring big international projects, especially in the developing world, government support for British companies must become



Passenger terminal building at the new Hong Kong airport, due to open next year

more effective. It must at least be equal to that enjoyed by our competitors, many of whom enjoy significant advantages due to their stronger and protected home markets.

According to Mr Goldsmith, all the industry wants is a level playing field. "Government support is crucial in winning business in emerging markets."

Don't get saddled with a cowboy

CONSUMERS

Union and the British Government must support the building industry in stamping out cowboys.

Mr Moon says: "The Government has indicated that if the building industry does not put itself in order to allow consumers to distinguish good builders from the cowboys, then it will take action. That would probably come in the second or third year of the current Parliament."

"My fear is that legislation will harm the legitimate builder without touching the cowboy."

He adds: "Changes in consumer policy can only be part of a wider package. The level at which businesses must

register for VAT is a major cause for concern. It is possible within EU guidelines to reduce VAT rates in cases of social need, and our housing stock is deteriorating."

• Be on guard against the cowboys: get a proper estimate; ask for the builder's telephone number and make sure it is a fixed line, not a mobile number; do not pay for the job before it is done; do not agree to buy your own materials; ask for references and check them; employ an established building company; inquire if the builder provides a guarantee backed by insurance; do not hand back the invoice — it will be sold illegally to a builder who can reclaim VAT.

Achievements

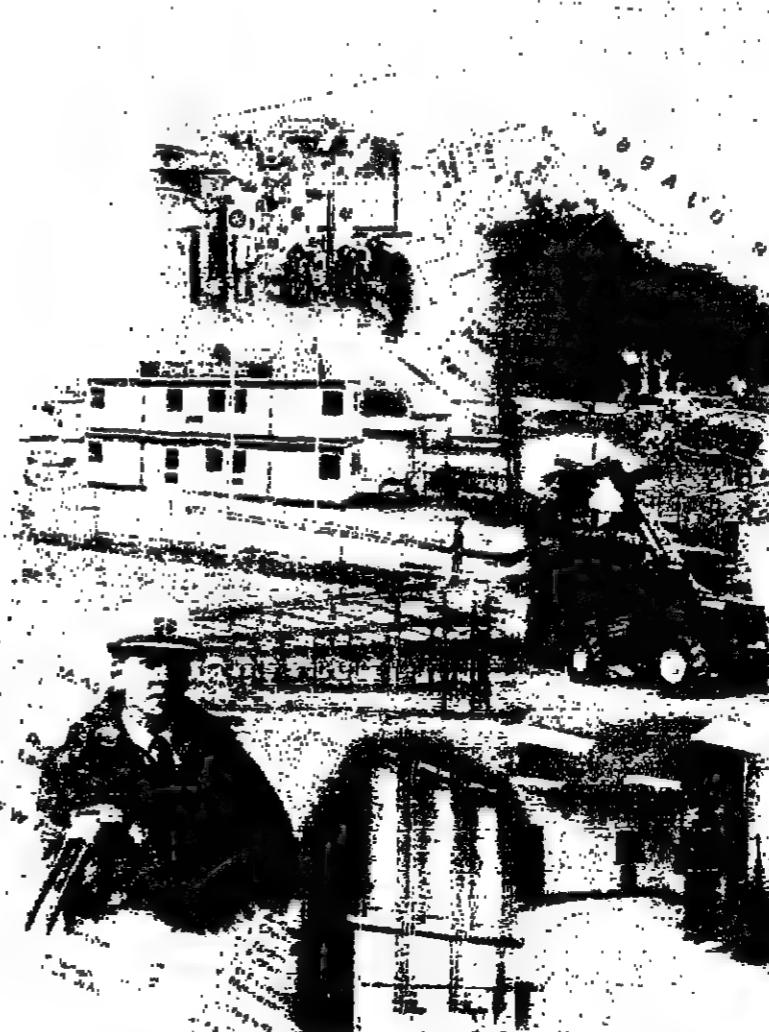
- Laing was the first construction company to win the British Quality Award.
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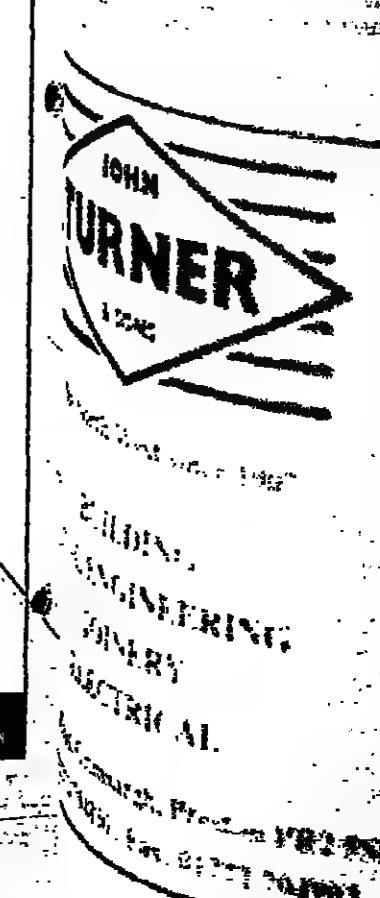
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Job in site

beckon

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

FOCUS

CONSTRUCTION FOR THE FUTURE 41



The Severn Bridge is one of the British construction industry's finest achievements

Time to bridge the gap

Civil engineering plays a crucial role in industry but badly needs investment, reports Rodney Hobson

The dividing lines are blurring between civil engineers and others in the construction industry such as architects, builders, maintenance companies and financiers – and that is good for the industry as a whole.

So says Peter Andrews, chairman of the Civil Engineering Contractors Association. "People have got to be bold enough to see their roles changing just as everything in life is changing at a pretty fast rate," he adds.

"We can combine our skills to produce a better construction industry. We need to remove confrontation between different disciplines as much as we can."

Mr Andrews believes that greater teamwork will help to improve the poor though improving safety record in the construction industry. It will also help to improve training and to attract more recruits.

"Training is something that the industry has not supported through the recession," he says. "It is a budget that is relatively easy to cut. You can do that for a while, but when you want to turn on the tap as things get better the trained

civil engineers will not be there."

"We have to start at schools and make the industry more attractive. The knowledge that careers masters and mistresses have of civil engineering is very sketchy. It does seem difficult to attract girls into the industry and the position is improving only slightly. We would benefit from having a lot more females at every level."

Mr Andrews wants to hammer home the message that civil engineers are vital for the comfort and wellbeing of the public and UK plc.

Transport infrastructure such as roads, rail, harbours and airports and even the humble sewage system are built and maintained by civil engineers," he says. "There is very little that people do in life that does not depend on civil engineers."

Mr Andrews fears that although we are still building

increasing amount of freight carried. We have to be able to cope with more movement of goods.

"The £16 billion that Railtrack is proposing to spend is obviously going to improve the standard of the rail network."

Rosemary Beales, the association's director, agrees that more money needs to go into road projects and that ways of raising finance must be found. "It is a false economy not to invest in the transport system," she says. "When bridges are closed because they need strengthening, traffic is diverted onto unsuitable roads. It takes longer to make the journey and damages the environment. Closing roads is the cheapest form of maintenance."

Mr Andrews adds: "Local authorities are spending far less than is necessary because of budget cuts. The easiest way to save money is to cut down

The environment does not just belong to protesters in trees, it belongs to all of us

are a trading nation and it is right that we should provide infrastructure so we can import and export," he says. "There is now a hunger of the railways that will put more business back on the tracks.

"We do not necessarily have to take freight off the roads in order to build up the railways because we are seeing an

A bright future with new trainees

TRAINING

IT will take an imaginative and committed training programme to put construction back on the road to recovery. Between 1990 and 1996, during the worst years of the recession, the industry lost almost half a million workers throughout the UK – people who left the industry for other employment and who will never return. Stephen Hoare writes.

Poised for recovery, the construction industry must boost training efforts if it is to avert serious skills shortages. Paul Shepherd, chairman of the Constructors' Confederation, says: "We lost a generation of apprentices. That situation now needs to be recovered."

Any skills shortages will appear first in Greater London and the southeast where a mini boom in commercial and private housing is supplementing projects such as the Jubilee Line Extension and the Heathrow Express. The Greenwich millennium exhibition project will add pressure.

During the next three years the industry aims to recruit and train 10,000 entrants a year – in addition to the 14,000 already going through the system – and is pinning its hopes on the Government's Welfare to Work programme paid for by the windfall tax on utilities.

The Construction Confederation and the Construction Industry Training Board are involved in creating a £140 million Welfare to Work package for the industry – extra cash that will fund six-month pre-training for 3,500 entrants a year.

The initiative will break the attitude of only recruiting school leavers aged 16-17. Under Welfare to Work, the industry will be spreading its net to attract 18 to 25-year-olds. The introduction of the modern apprenticeships and the new national traineeship to be launched in September will provide a comprehensive training programme up to NVQ Level 3 for the new recruits.

Hugh Try, the CITB chairman,



Committed:
Paul Shepherd

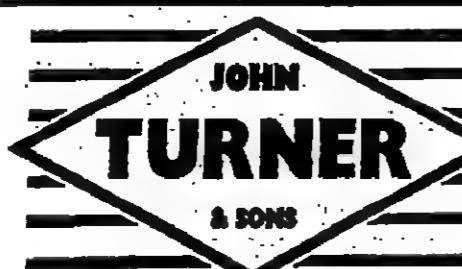
York-based Shepherd Construction, would like to see the training board getting tough. "My personal view is that the CITB levy should be increased dramatically so that if you don't train it becomes expensive."

Last year the CITB distributed £36.2 million to employers in the form of training grants and a further £23.7 million via the Training and Enterprise Councils to support colleges and private training providers such as Tarmac and Jarvis.

The recession, coupled with tighter funding from TECs – Training and Enterprise Councils – has hit the college construction departments hard. Fourteen colleges have ceased construction training, while many more have cut back. Once gone, the training provision is lost forever.

Mr Shepherd says: "I'd like to see something bold from the Government support for training that recognises that it is more expensive in terms of resources to train up a bricklayer than it is a computer programmer."

Hugh Try, the CITB chairman,



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The CITB is providing £38 million in grants this year for training in the construction industry.

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So we invest a further 50p for each pound of levy received because we generate extra cash

for training. The additional investment covers new entrant training, developing NVQs and SVQs, and general careers advice.

Our new entrant training programme is the largest in the industry with some 12,500 trainees on courses each year.

Through our Grants Scheme we offer everything from new entrant training for school leavers, including Modern Apprenticeships, through to

new skills training for experienced personnel. Courses take range from half a day to several months. And we help up to 100,000 people a year.

To get an information pack or details on the Grants Scheme, all you have to do is contact the CITB on 01495 578 233, quoting ref TS1.

CITB
Construction Industry
Training Board

CRICKET

Smith gives selectors six reasons to rethink

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CHELTENHAM (first day of four; Derbyshire won toss); Gloucestershire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 180 runs ahead of Derbyshire

DAVID LLOYD, the England coach, came to the opening of the Cheltenham festival yesterday, hoping to see Mike Smith bowl himself back into contention for the Headingly Test. By lunchtime, the job was done.

Smith dismissed Derbyshire twice in two hours, swinging the ball late and venomously. His six for 47 made him the first bowler this season to pass 50 wickets and, with Dean Headley once more missing a championship match with a niggling injury, Smith will today be brought into the England party.

The addition ought to be unnecessary, for the one thing that made no sense in an otherwise astutely swift re-selection after Old Trafford, was the eviction of Smith. Leeds, where the ball invariably swings, is undoubtedly his ground, as he emphasised with ten wickets in Gloucestershire's championship win there last month.

The quality of his bowling and his angle as a left-arm are complemented by the value of his footmarks to the off spin of Robert Croft. Lloyd, who required no personal persuasion of all this, watched with satisfaction as Smith demolished Derbyshire, then spoke by telephone to the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, who is holidaying in Spain.

Headley's incapacity makes it easy for the selectors to recruit Smith but, in another sense, is alarming. He took eight wickets on his debut and was much the most impressive England bowler, but his fitness is unreliable.

This was, in all ways, a marvellous day for Gloucestershire. The special sense of anticipation that Cheltenham brings was expressed in a decent crowd and the usual semi-circle of well-filled marquees. It was also expressed on the field, by players who genuinely believe they can sustain a challenge for the title.

The euphoria induced by Smith was briefly subdued when Devon Malcolm, charging in from the college green, took their first three wickets in four overs, but thereafter the

day belonged to Shaun Young. The Tasmanian left-hander made his maiden first-class hundred for the county, striking the ball with punitive force and establishing a potentially decisive lead.

The command of Young, who shared century stands with Tim Hancock and Mark Alleyne, put the earlier events sharply into context. Although ten batsmen were out before lunch, and an eleventh, Vandana, retired requiring stiches in his jaw, this is an admirable pitch, even of bounce and allowing negligible lateral movement.

It was just as good in the corresponding festival fixture last year, which Gloucestershire bewilderingly lost inside two days. If there is to be a two-day finish this time, they will be on the right end of it, deepening the gloom that is settling over Derbyshire.

Already bottom of the table, they also remain in the grip of a conflict between players and committee, the central feature of which is a heavy fine levied on Kim Barnett and now subject to appeal. A committee meeting on Tuesday apparently agreed to seek a compromise, but little short of a complete climbdown will satisfy Barnett. His value as a player remains high, as he emphasised yesterday. While the rest submitted feebly on a heavy, overcast morning, Barnett's technique saw him through until, with only Malcolm for company, he was last out for 58.

Twice, Smith was on a hat-trick and if Lynch had clung on to a sharp slip chance from Barnett, the ball after Clarke's departure to a misguided hook, it would have been thrice. In his second over, Smith removed Rollins, leg-before to a yorker, and bowled Adams through an airy drive that the batsman grimly estimated he had missed by a foot. Later, DeFreitas and Harris also went to consecutive balls.

Gloucestershire's start was no better, a reminder of the batting shortcomings that inhibit them, but Derbyshire's bowling wilted in the afternoon sun. Dropping short to Young is a crime one which the seamers repeated with severe consequences. By evening, Derbyshire looked fatalistic as Young accelerated past 150, with 106 of the runs having come from boundaries.



Adams, with the college chapel at his back, is utterly defeated by Smith, the Gloucestershire left-arm.

Roberts anchors Northamptonshire

BY BARNEY SPENDER

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four; Northamptonshire won toss; Northamptonshire have scored 354 for nine wickets against Essex)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, despite their lowly position in the Britannic Assurance county championship, have a knack of producing promising youngsters. Yesterday it was the turn of David Roberts, 20, who compiled a fine maiden hundred in his fifth championship match.

His innings of 117 was all the better for the fact that his colleagues eschewed the

chance of cashing in on a friendly pitch and some surprisingly wayward bowling, and so missed out on the chance of posting a truly imposing total.

They were even in danger of failing to reach 300 when Paul Grayson, bowling his left-arm spin, picked up four for one in 34 deliveries, but some robust defiance from the last pair of Ripley and Boswell not only took them past that mark but beyond 350 as well, to ensure maximum batting points.

Of the top eight only Bailey was unable to make it into the twenties but none apart from Roberts went on beyond 36. The most eccentric performance came

from Lye who, moving down the order to No 4, scythed his way to 32 off 41 balls as if it were a one-day game.

Roberts watched with a detached air of bemusement, showing a phlegmatic temperament when he spent just under an hour stuck on 26. Instead of getting ruffled, he quietly got himself going again and flexed his muscles when the opportunity arose, a fierce pulled six off Cowan momentarily upstaging Lye.

After reaching his 50 shortly after lunch, he demonstrated a fine array of strokes, including one delicate cut off Such. His century arrived just before tea, from 224 balls.

Reprieved Crawley makes Sussex pay

BY RICHARD HOBSON

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four; Sussex won toss); Lancashire have scored 390 for five wickets against Sussex

ALTHOUGH three days remain, it is hardly rash to venture that the defining moment of this game came in its first session when John Crawley, without a run to his name, attempted to drive Mark Robinson and turned to see Keith Greenfield, in the slips, spill a waist-high chance.

Almost four hours later, when conditions had eased considerably, Crawley was celebrating his second hundred of the season, succumbing soon afterwards for 112, an innings which included 15 fours. He put on 243 in 38 overs for the third wicket with Neil Fairbrother.

Given that Sussex have totalled 331 in aggregate in their past four championship innings, a third successive victory beckons strongly for the sixth and seventh bowlers.

Lancashire, who recovered well from an uneasy start on a re-laid pitch that gave early assistance to the bowlers.

Robinson produced a delivery that pitched middle-and-leg before uprooting Gallian's off stump and Alberton fell leg-before when Kirtley nipped one back.

After cautious beginnings, Crawley and Fairbrother ran their singles intelligently and became more ambitious in dealing with loose deliveries that came with growing frequency. Fairbrother punished anything short in compiling 132 in 25 minutes with 14 fours.

Sussex, who entered the contest with more bowling points than any other county, decided to play without a regular spinner for the first time this season, a mistake which forced Moore to turn to Greenfield, while Silverwood ended the biggest stand — 30 — with a direct hit to run out Bent.

Bent was not chuckling either. He had chosen to bat first on a sporting pitch which was green in the middle and bare at the ends, and seen his gamble backfire as Durham

Unhappy captains are not game for a laugh

BY PAT GIBSON

SCARBOROUGH (first day of four; Durham won toss); Yorkshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 15 runs behind Durham

THEIR was no confusing

of Michael Roseberry and David Boon, Durham captains past and present, with tonight's star turns at the theatre down by the harbour. They are called 'The Chuckle Brothers'.

Roseberry was a picture of calm on a day which began with him being forced to retire hurt after being struck on the helmet by a short ball from White and ended with him facing a charge of showing dissent when the umpire, George Sharp, gave him out caught behind as soon as he returned.

Boon was not chuckling either. He had chosen to bat

first on a sporting pitch which was green in the middle and bare at the ends, and seen his gamble backfire as Durham

were bowled out for 152 and Yorkshire cruised to 137 for two.

They used to call the Scarborough Festival 'first-class cricket on holiday', but it is anything but that in the championship matches these days. It was sheer hard graft for Durham and only Lewis, the former Essex opener, seemed up to it.

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Hat-trick by Franks brings renewed promise

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

GUILDFORD (first day of four; Surrey won toss; Surrey have scored 457 for nine wickets against Hampshire)

SURREY have resolved to burn over a new leaf after their champagne victory in the Benson and Hedges Cup and their first task is to breathe life into their ailing championship season. They have set themselves the task of winning their next three matches and began their mission with a vengeance yesterday.

Nobody encapsulated this mood better than Adam Hollioake, the captain. First he dismissed his agent, Gareth James, whose influence on the team has been welcomed by few, and then went out and thumped Hampshire's la-bouring attack to all parts for a 34-ball half-century.

It took a smart leg-side stamping by Aymes to stem the flow, but by then Hollioake had reached his highest championship score of the season, 75 from 69 balls with 13 fours and a six, 26 coming in two withering overs against Bevill. Hollioake was not alone. Butcher — dropped on 11 — Thorpe and Lewis also recorded season-best championship scores while Stewart made 96.

As these statistics suggest, a shortage of runs has been at the heart of Surrey's failings this season, so to total more than 450 in a day must have been a heartening collective exercise, even if the friendly conditions at Woodbridge Road should equally inflate Hampshire's output.

If Hollioake's innings was the most explosive of the day, Thorpe was the most finely crafted and Stewart the most extravagant. Butcher and Stewart put on 174 for the second wicket. Thorpe and Lewis added 124 for the fifth. For the unquesed crowd, the day could not have been better, save for a contribution from Ben Hollioake, who carefully passed his fifth ball into the hands of mid-wicket. Hampshire stuck to their task well and are not out of the reckoning yet.

WILTS (first day of four; Wiltshire have scored 300 for seven wickets against Warwickshire)

WILTS' 10 wickets in 10 overs was the most convincing stroke. Hemp played more freely and had just driven Tolley resoundingly for four when he was brilliantly held at second slip by Archer. Giles contributed 42 good runs.

He batted through 45 overs for 50 before Hartley had him caught at slip, but the result was not a match for the Yorkshire attack. There were four wickets for Gough and three for Hartley, while Silverwood ended the biggest stand — 30 — with a direct hit to run out Bent.

Byns and McGrath quickly put the Durham total in perspective with a second-wicket stand of 88. Byns had 11 fours in his 48 and McGrath completed his first championship half-century of the season before the close.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (first day of four; P. R. Pratap, R. T. Patel, D. J. Stewart, S. M. Ali, A. H. Aslam, M. P. Domremont, C. N. Tolley, P. J. Francis, T. W. Moon, N. R. Oram, bonus points; Nottinghamshire 4; Warwickshire 3; Umpires: V. A. Holder and B. L. Leesmore)

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

Ealham directs familiar rescue

By JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (first day of four; Kent won toss); Kent have scored 356 for seven wickets against Leicestershire

THE gremlins that influenced the tide of events for Kent in the Benson and Hedges Cup final were still lurking in large numbers yesterday morning. Kent took first innings in the knowledge that their estimable secretary, Stewart Anderson, had that morning broken his leg on the tennis court. The air of doom and gloom persisted as Kent made their way, hesitantly, to 126 for five.

Trevor Ward had bucked the trend with a cultured half-century, but it was not until Paul Strang joined Mark Ealham at the fall of the sixth wicket for 162, that Kent's equilibrium was restored. These two added 145 runs during an enthralling 38 overs. Ealham's five-hour innings has taken him within four runs of his century. Tenacity and sensible aggression were applied by these two as they staged the sort of rescue act that all too often has been a necessary feature of Kent's season.

A measure of the unreliability in championship games of Kent's batting in the upper order lies with the fact that, of their three centuries, all have come from below stairs. Ealham already has one. Steve Marsh and Ben Phillips the others. So, in a sense, the Kent faithful have become inclined to disaster followed by

deeds of derring-do; but it is not good for the blood pressure.

There were early signs that a more orthodox course of events might be followed yesterday. When they had reached 55 without loss, Ed Smith, in his first championship game of the season, and David Fulton had equalled Kent's best championship opening partnership this season. However, when they had reached 63, normal service was restored.

It was James Ormond, Leicestershire's up-and-coming quick bowler, who made the breach, brushing Smith's glove as he attempted to hook. Ormond followed Mullally's dismissal of Fulton by also accounting for Wells and Long. At this stage he had taken three for 12 in 18 balls, and when Ward, after making 51 from 37 balls, with eight spanking fours and a six, mistimed and was comfortably caught by the bowler, Kent stared at disaster once more.

As the world knows, Ealham gives 100 per cent whenever he is called on. Maybe less well known is Strang's powerful mixture of orthodox defence and often agricultural attack. Each wore down Leicestershire in his own way and set Kent back on their feet, which for them is just as well. The pitch is good and Headley's strained side has kept him out, though he expects to be fit for the fourth Test match.



Ward is caught and bowled by Pierson shortly after reaching his half-century at Canterbury yesterday

Hick leads way in New Road run feast

By JOHN THICKNESSE

WORCESTER (first day of three; Pakistan A won toss); Pakistan A, with seven remaining wickets in hand, are 99 runs behind Worcestershire

A FIRM pitch 55 yards from the pavilion and a quick outfield produced a run feast at New Road. Of the 431 runs scored in six hours 50 minutes, all but 121 came in fours and sixes, which numbered 73 and three respectively.

The bowlers held their own, however, Ali Rizvi taking five for 68 with flatish wrist-spin for the touring team, and

Maneer Mirza, a 19-year-old seamer, collecting a wicket on his debut for the county.

Grateme Hick, captaining Worcestershire for the first time in the absence of Moody, Rhodes and Illingworth, played the innings of the day, but he was almost upstaged by Ali Naqvi. Having put together 114 last week in a vain attempt to stave off defeat by MCC, Naqvi opened his 29-ball frolic yesterday with a four over mid-off in Shertyar's first over and added seven more boundaries before being trapped leg-before. Salim Elahi, striking 11 fours in his fifty, stayed in until the close for 78 not out.

In Worcestershire's innings, Hick was on course for a hundred before lunch until he was caught in the covers off a skier attempting a third straight six in successive overs off Rizvi.

Out of their depth as the touring team might have been bowling to a batsman of Hick's power, the ease with which he dominated play was remarkable. While he was making 55 off 48 balls, including two sixes and ten fours, Weston and Spiring scored 11 runs between them. Uniquely, it was Hick's third highest first-class score of the summer, following hundreds against Gloucestershire and Oxford University.

Ponting grasps his main chance

By IVO TENNANT

CARDIFF (first day of three; Glamorgan won toss); Glamorgan, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 339 runs behind the Australians

time this season as, for that matter, was Metson, who is taking a benefit and who kept wicket as tightly as in the past.

Taylor, too, will not have found this sufficient preparation for Headingly, for he found that he could do much as he liked against an attack lacking in experience and, initially, direction. The captain struck nine fours and a six, swung over square leg off Cosker before he failed to clear the fielder at deep mid-wicket. Morris, running in, held a good, low catch.

Blewett made a half-century in his stylish way, full of skimming drives and, when he played on to Butcher, Ponting and Langer came together and added an unbroken 123, a record for the fifth wicket for the Australians against Glamorgan. The declaration came earlier than expected, as if Maynard was responding to Matlarn's misfortune in giving his side what amounted to decent batting practice.

Ponting had a bit-part on this tour. This was only his third first-class innings, the others having realised 19, against Nottinghamshire, and 64, against Leicestershire. It was significant that he came in three places in the order above Bevan, who did not bat and whose place for the fourth Test is evidently in jeopardy.

The placement of Ponting in the middle order, followed by Slater and then Langer, who reached a half-century just before the declaration, would suggest that that is Taylor's order of preference. No doubt he would have liked them to have faced a more testing attack as, for expedient reasons as well as injuries, there was no Waran, Watkin or Croft. Parkin was playing in a first-class match for the first

One man of Kent who cheered Surrey victory

MR E QUANTRILL, of Gillingham, Kent, is the winner of the weekly prize for the Interactive Team Cricket game.

Mr Quantrill's team, Young Neds XI, scored 1,358 points and he must surely have been one of the few cricket followers in Kent to have a lot to cheer about after that county's defeat by

Surrey in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup at Lord's.

Young Neds XI have three Surrey men in their team: the Hollis brothers, Adam and Ben, and Alec Stewart. Ben Hollis gained 103 points with an innings of 98, which won him the man-of-the-match award, while Stewart earned 146 points when scoring an unbeaten 75.

John Stephenson, the Hampshire captain, accrued 191 points partly due to taking six for 16 in their victory over Worcestershire in the Axa Life League on Sunday.

This week's prize is a signed, and framed, photograph of a player of the year, an England cap, signed by England players, a first edition of the PCA Year Book '97, signed by members of the Professional Cricketers' Association, and two tickets to a day at an Ashes Test.

YOUNG NEDS XI: Basmen: A J Hollis (Surrey), A J Stewart (Surrey), A D Hollis (Surrey), A J Stephenson (Hampshire). All-rounders: R C Ben (Essex), Wicket-keeper: R C Russell (Gloucestershire). Openers: S J Tait (Essex), Muztash Ahmed (Somerset); V P Clarke (Derbyshire), B C Hollis (Surrey).



ITC TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD



The scores in the first four columns cover the past week. The final column is the player's overall points total. The figures include all matches completed by July 14. Overseas players are shown in bold type. Rising Stars in italicics.

Player (no.) Runs Wkds C/S/R Weekly total Overall total

Batsmen (101-146)

Category A

C J Adams (101) ... 210 0 0 230 1240

G F Archer (102) ... 12 0 0 12 20

M A Arkell (103) ... 200 0 0 200 200

C W J Alcock (104) ... 1 0 0 1 1

R J Bailey (105) ... 23 0 0 23 20

K J Barnes (106) ... 111 0 0 111 111

D B Beddoe (107) ... 0 0 0 0 0

G S Bell (108) ... 20 0 0 20 20

D C Bonn (109) ... 26 0 0 26 26

P D Brown (110) ... 44 0 0 44 44

A D Brown (111) ... 21 0 0 21 21

A D Burchell (112) ... 2 0 0 2 2

P A Buttler (113) ... 21 0 0 21 21

J P Caddick (114) ... 113 0 0 113 113

M T G Elliott (115) ... 0 0 0 0 0

J E R Gaunt (116) ... 27 0 0 27 27

M W Gatting (117) ... 0 0 0 0 0

M L Haynes (118) ... 20 0 0 20 20

J M Hutton (119) ... 20 0 0 20 20

G D Lloyd (120) ... 4 0 0 4 4

M B Love (121) ... 2 0 0 2 2

M P Moxon (122) ... 30 0 0 30 30

A M Neale (123) ... 245 0 0 245 245

R R McCormick (124) ... 0 0 0 0 0

T M Moody (125) ... 55 0 0 55 55

H Morris (126) ... 53 0 0 53 53

M M Nabi (127) ... 29 0 0 29 29

T L Pomery (128) ... 29 0 0 29 29

R M Ramprakash (129) ... 42 0 0 42 42

R T Robertson (130) ... 0 0 0 0 0

P V Rossouw (131) ... 0 0 0 0 0

M J Sams (132) ... 0 0 0 0 0

A J Smith (133) ... 0 0 0 0 0

M J Smith (134) ... 0 0 0 0 0

M J Smith (135) ... 0 0 0 0 0

M J Smith (136) ... 0 0 0 0 0

M J Smith (137) ... 0 0 0 0 0

M J Smith (138) ... 0 0 0 0 0

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M J Smith (177) ... 0 0 0 0 0

'I've told my crew how difficult it is to come down at the end'

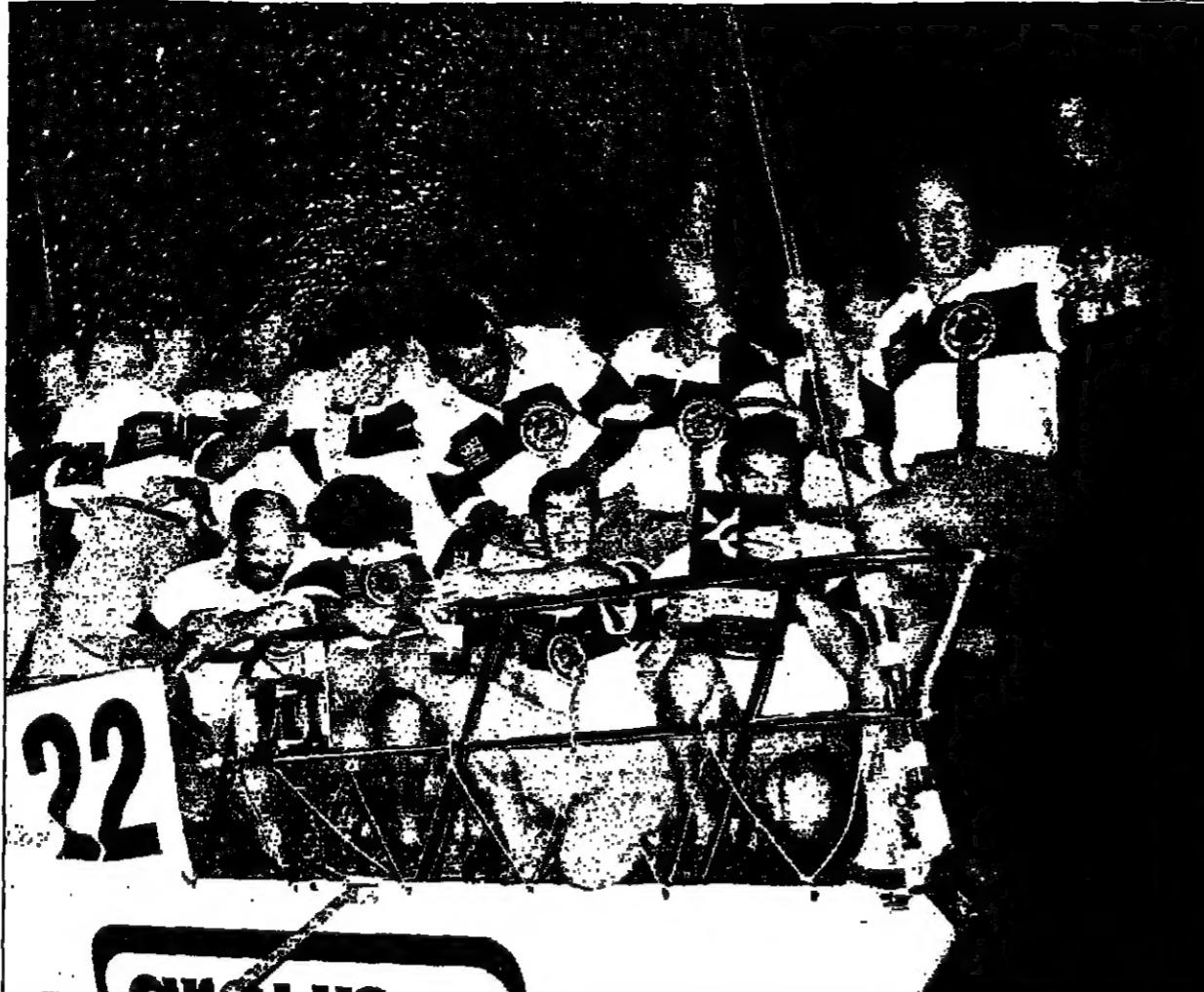
Welcome home to grim reality

By MICHAEL CALVIN

THE crew stood in the shadows thrown by the spotlight that illuminated the mainsail of the yacht, *Group 4*, in the early hours of yesterday. They were silhouettes, somehow stripped of their humanity by the darkness. Our voyage of self-discovery was about to end, and another, equally intimidating, begin.

The BT Global Challenge may be billed as the world's toughest yacht race, but even that dubious claim disguises the depth of the examination of character it provides. As absurd as it seems, given the mythology of the sea, sailing around the world the wrong way, against prevailing winds and tides, is the easy bit.

Though the scale of the task is daunting, it has a seductive simplicity. The amateur crews who returned to Southampton yesterday may have circum-



Golding, far right, and his crew celebrate after their triumphant return to Southampton in the early hours yesterday

DETAILS

LATEST POSITIONS (at 16.02GMT yesterday): 1, Group 4 finished at 01.06.58; 2, Toubia Wave Warmer 02.39.46; 3, Concert 04.07.41; 4, Save the Children 04.32.42; 5, Commercial Union 04.32.42; 6, 3Com 04.32.42; 7, miles from Southampton; 7, Global Teamwon 10.8, Ocean Rover 14.9, 9, 3Com 19.10, Heath Insured II 16.11, Courtauld International 22.12, Pausa 23.11.12, Mirora 22.14, Team 2 Tide 11.13

navigated the globe, but they have been cloistered in a small, self-absorbed world. It is an unreal, occasionally unhealthy, existence that can form lifelong friendships and enduring enmities.

The emotions released by their 33,000-mile odyssey, which compressed ten years' living into ten months, have surprising strength. Naturally enough, as fireworks were released to welcome the fleet, they were initially expressed in tears of joy. Typically, Grahame Gibson, a member of Mike Golding's winning crew on *Group 4*, had the glassy-eyed air of a man in shock.

"This is the ultimate, the pinnacle of everything I've ever done," he said. "It is the first time what we have achieved has really sunk in. I am sure it has changed me. You go through tremendous highs and lows for month after month. You learn so much about yourself."

"I'm different to the person who left here last September. Out there, I've come to terms with my weaknesses. Everyone has them and I can now

manage mine. My strengths have become stronger. I can approach the future with such confidence."

Optimism, like the soft-focus view of the world that comes courtesy of unlimited champagne after weeks on a diet of freeze-dried mush, fades all too quickly. The race is, to use the words of its youngest crewman, Paul Sherwood, "an excellent adventure". But these crews will soon be confronted by the realities and responsibilities of the lives they left behind.

When I returned from sailing in Sir Chay Blyth's inaugural British Steel Challenge race four years ago, it took me three months to come to terms with the rigidity of the structure of what passes as normal life.

Shared lessons have been applied by my former watch-leader, Andy Hindley, a notably successful skipper of third-

placed *Save the Children*. "I realised what I was letting myself in for at the start of all this," he said. "It doesn't make it any easier to deal with, and I've put my crew over and over again how difficult it will be for them to come down at the end of the race. They've got to have something else to focus on."

"Potentially, the hardest point of the race comes right now, when they've got to get off the boat. They'll party for a

couple of days, and then it all finishes and they'll have to go home. That's the big emotional hit. I've prepared them for it, but I'll give them my phone number just in case. I'll be there if they need me."

They will, assuredly, Sean Blowers, the actor, sailed on *Commercial Union Assurance* until the yacht reached Wellington, in New Zealand, when he had to retire from the race with back problems that required surgery. Yesterday, six months on, he radiated an overwhelming sense of loss.

"I'm having to come to terms with those horrible things, like bills, mortgages, careers," he said. "However bad it is at sea, it is still easier than what we call normality. There is nothing else to think about but sailing the boat as fast as possible."

"I was hoping to rejoin the boat, but it was never really on the cards. I did too much damage. Recovering from that blow is all part of the challenge. You've just got to get a grip on things, but I have to say, it's hard to keep the tears back."

Relationships must be rebuilt. Simon Walker, the skipper of second-placed *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, is quietly resentful at not having the opportunity to see his two children grow up. "I really did miss them," he said. "It's a biological function. On a couple of the long legs I've sat on my own and wished I was not there."

But there are compensations, expressed most eloquently by *Save the Children* crew member, Phillip White.

"Chay used to tell us: 'No Guts, No Glory,'" he said. "Well, I'm glad I had the guts to do this, and grateful for the glory it has given me."

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CYLING: UKRAINIAN'S SWING TO LEFT PRESENTS TOUR STAGE TO FRENCHMAN**Outschakov relegated to third place**

By JEREMY WHITTLE

THE Tour de France saw another controversial stage finish in the old Roman city of Perpignan yesterday when Serguei Outschakov, of Ukraine, was relegated to third place for dangerous sprinting and victory awarded to Laurent Desbiens, of

France. Outschakov crossed the line at the head of a three-man breakaway but was judged to have unfairly blocked Desbiens, who came perilously close to crashing into the crowd barriers.

Against the backdrop of the rapidly receding Pyrenees, Outschakov, Desbiens and Carlo Finco, of Italy, took

advantage of a brief drop in the pace to slip clear as the race headed across the arid lowlands of Languedoc.

With most of the riders happy to recuperate from their efforts in the mountains, only Christ Boardman's GAN team working for their wireless sprinter, Frederic Moncassin, showed any interest in pursu-

ing the breakaways, who stayed clear into the streets of Perpignan, where the canny Outschakov did his best to make up for the lacklustre showing of his team leader, the French star, Luc Leblanc.

Desbiens managed a surge in the final 100 metres only to find his path blocked by the Ukrainian's sudden move to his left. "I was clear of him," a crestfallen Outschakov said.

"My advantage was good and he had room to pass."

A weary and stiff Boardman finished the stage with the main field. He is still in pain from his neck injury but remains hopeful of recovering some of his best form before the race enters the Alps on Saturday.

"My legs felt stronger today," he said before flying north to the Massif Central for the rest day today for the 17th competitors left in the race.

Results, page 43

IN BRIEF**Rusedski pulls out**

GREG RUSEDSKI is to withdraw from the Northern Electric Open tennis tournament in Jesmond next week after aggravating a groin injury in his second-round defeat by Magnus Larsson, of Sweden, in the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart yesterday.

The British No 2 was hampered by the injury — which he originally suffered in his match-winning Davis Cup display against Ukraine in Kiev last weekend — during his 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 defeat by the Swede.

SHOOTING: Scotland won the Echo Shield for match rifle teams of eight at Bisley yesterday by setting a record score of 1,723.177.

RUGBY UNION: Dave Sims, the England A lock, will miss the first eight weeks of Gloucester's season because of an Achilles tendon injury.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

MOBIUS STRIP

(b) A surface having only one side and one edge. It is formed by twisting one end of a rectangular strip, eg a ribbon, through 180 degrees and joining it to the other end. Named after Augustus Möbius (1790-1868).

KLEPHT

(a) One of a body of Greeks who refused to submit to the Turks after the conquest of Greece in the 15th century.

CANNIZARO

(c) Stanislaw Cannizaro (1826-1910) gave his name to a reaction of aldehydes with carboxylic acids. When aldehydes containing no H atoms on the α-carbon atom are treated in the cold with concentrated aqueous or alcoholic sodium hydroxide, dismutation involving two molecules takes place. One molecule is reduced to the alcohol, while the other is oxidised to a salt of the corresponding carboxylic acid.

HAZARD CHASE

(b) Hazard is the court away from the server, who always serves from one end. A chase is a line parallel to the net. It also designates the point of impact of second bounce when the player has not returned. The value is determined by the neatness of the bounce to the wall. Ends are changed, and if the player new serving can get a bounce nearer the end he scores it. If not, it is scored by the first player. Until it is so decided, the chase is a stroke in abeyance.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 b7! Nxc7 (or 2 Re5+ follows) 2 hQc8+ and White wins

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BRYANT'S EYE 43

Why Black deserved better from Britain's athletics selectors

SPORT

THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

CRICKET 44-45

Smith bowls himself back into reckoning for England place

Champion well-equipped to make strong defence of his title at Royal Troon

Lehman heads list of the Open minded

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

TOM LEHMAN buttoned his rain jacket up to his chin and buried his head in its waterproof folds. His friendly face peered out from beneath a tweed cap. The eyes of the Open champion danced, in contrast to a predecessor of whom it was once said that he laughed, but not with his eyes. Lehman, at Troon on the eve of the 120th Open Championship, looked at home, at ease, in control and belated.

As well he might. Lehman begins the defence of the title he won at Royal Lytham and St Annes with almost everything in apple pie order and swept along on a wave of support from the Scots that threatens to wash him down onto the beach and out into the murky waters of the Firth of Clyde. The Scots have not taken an American to their hearts in such unrestrained fashion since Tom Watson donned a tam-o'-shanter here in 1982 to mark his fourth Open victory in Scotland.

There is some symmetry in this because no one since Watson in 1983 has had as good a chance of repeating their victory in the Open as Lehman has now.

As Lehman demonstrated so clearly last week in winning the Gulfstream World Invitational, he is playing near his

best, though the challenge presented by an inland, American-style course, such as Loch Lomond, is dramatically different to that of Royal Troon, a traditional links if ever there was one and one that this week has been dampened by rain squalls and caressed by a wind that capriciously alters

thing about winning a big championship is gives you a lot of confidence that you can win more big tournaments," Lehman said. "The confidence I gained from winning the Open has made me a better player. I have learnt about myself, working out where I can improve, where I stand in the world of golf."

"I feel very confident," Lehman continued. "My game is in good shape and the course is extremely good. If I play my best there are few who can beat me. If the wind continues to blow the same way, which I expect it will, it is going to take a lot of good, solid shotmaking to get round this course. I think those kind of things are to my advantage. I keep things under control pretty well. This is different golf. You can't get up and just bomb it all over the ranch."

One story reveals why Lehman has been taken to the hearts of the Scots. Last October he flew over to Troon for a quick visit and was having dinner in a local restaurant. The proprietor asked if a photograph could be taken. "Don't bother about that," Lehman replied. "I've got one back in my room. I'll drop it in."

"No, no," said the restaurateur. "I'll send someone up to get it."

"It's no trouble," Lehman said. That same evening a photograph, signed by Lehman, was duly delivered to the golfer — by Lehman himself. Such generosity and humanity bore out what Jack Nicklaus said about his countryman. "Tom is a wonderful person and a wonderful player," Nicklaus said. "He has got a good balance between his golf game and his life. He is a very solid citizen."

The enticing prospect before the Open is that there are more good players at the peak of their form than at any time since the thrilling last round at Sandwich four years ago. Whetting the appetite even more is the fact that the

names one would expect are all there: Ernie Els, the US Open champion; Colin Montgomerie, who is in the form of his life and hoping to end his lamentable Open record; Greg Norman, who won his most recent tournament in the United States;

and the likes of Nick Faldo,

the leading home contender.

There could be no better way for him to celebrate his fortieth birthday tomorrow, and his entry into formal middle age, than by winning a fourth Open on Sunday.

Eight years after Els ap-

peared in his first Open as a 12½-year-old, he has matu-

rised into one of the most

substantial presences in golf.

Lehman and Tiger Woods, who will assuredly be the golfer of the next decade. Do not overlook Nick Price, nor

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"Tiger is mentally very strong,

I don't see a lot ruffing his

feathers. People here are wait-

ing to embrace him."

Nonetheless, victory by

Woods over such a stellar

field, while possible, is unlike-

ly. Though he has won seven

tournaments as a professional,

Woods has not triumphed over such a course as this when competing against a field as strong.

"What would be really exciting would be for all the guys who are supposedly on good form to be still in good form on Sunday," Lehman said, a remark that every golf enthusiast would wholeheartedly endorse. "That doesn't happen very often. It would be really exciting to be part of it on Sunday."

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Faldo's fears, page 43
Pavin in crisis, page 43



TELEVISION: BBC1: Live 3.00pm; BBC2: Live 10.30pm; 12.30am; 1.03am; 4.07am; Highlights 9.00-9.40pm

its angle of attack from south-west to northwest.

In the past 12 months, Lehman, 38, has grown in confidence before one's eyes, adding both toughness and charm. This, in part, explains why he has achieved more in his year as Open champion and been deflected less by the minutiae and avarice than many predecessors. "The best

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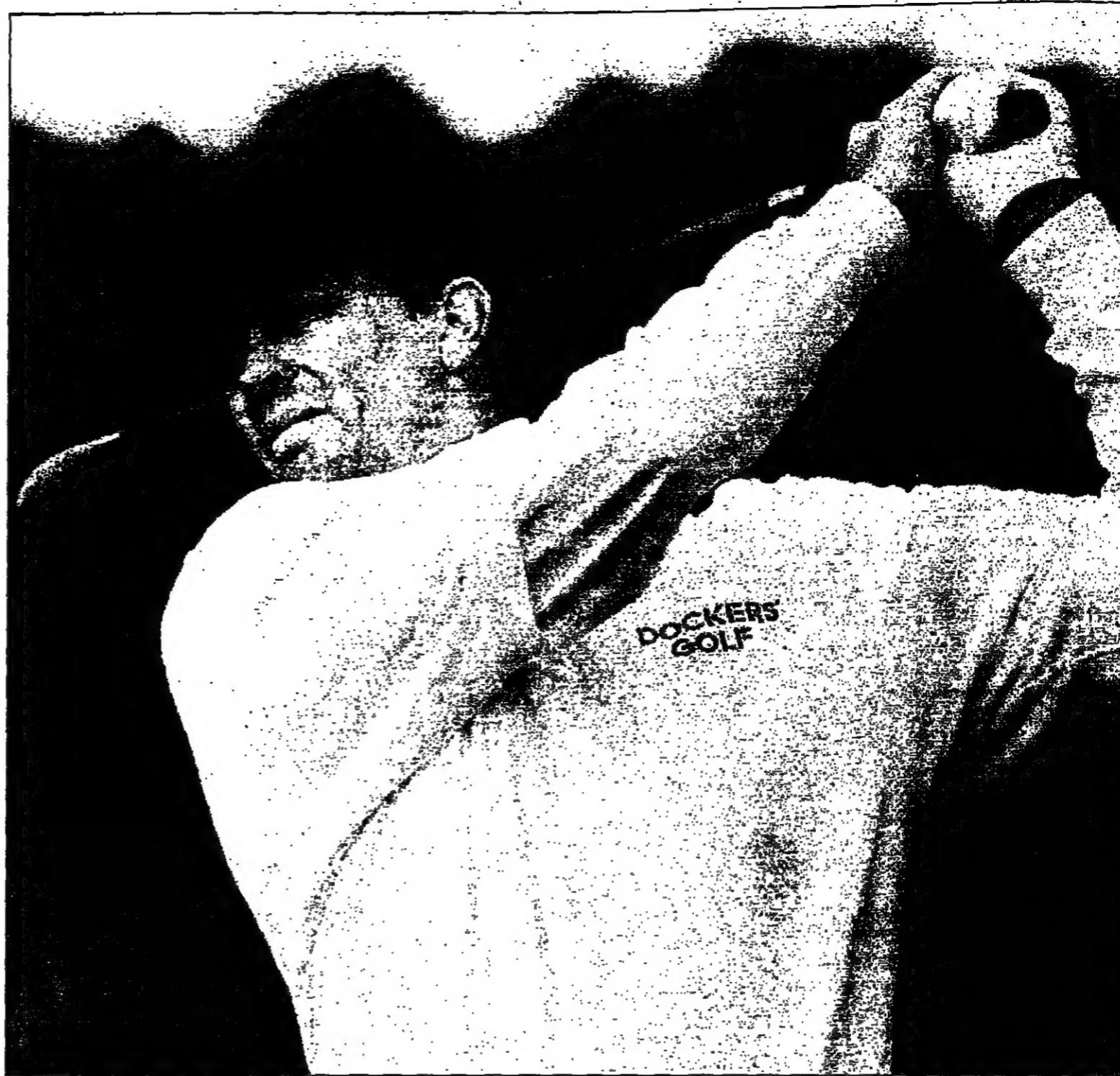
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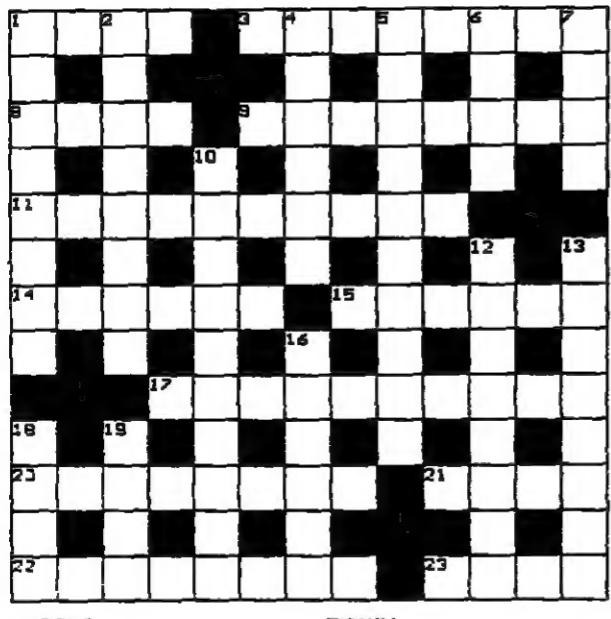
rised into one of the most



Lehman was in confident mood after he had practised on the eve of the Open at Troon yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1148 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- String; wood measure (4)
- Mine host (8)
- Plucked instrument; pipe sealant (4)
- Raw veg. starter (8)
- Tack permission (10)
- Celtic language (6)
- Give sharp blow; sound (hour) (6)
- China expert (10)
- Closing scene; chapter (8)
- Advise of danger (4)
- Urgent; ironing (8)
- Terrorist group (4)

DOWN

- Pilot's identification (4,4)
- (Treaty) approved (5)
- Overseas (6)
- Devotion (lit) (10)
- Evening twilight (4)
- Apt; well-expressed (10)
- Make less harsh (5)
- One on guard (8)
- Duke of Bedford seat (6)
- Orto (4)
- A tree; long (4)

examination will be as much of their technical skill as of their character and resolve. Not only must they cope with the difficulties of the most fearsome inward nine holes on the Open rota but, with luck, they will be buffeted by a wind and battered by rain showers. An Open should test all.

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